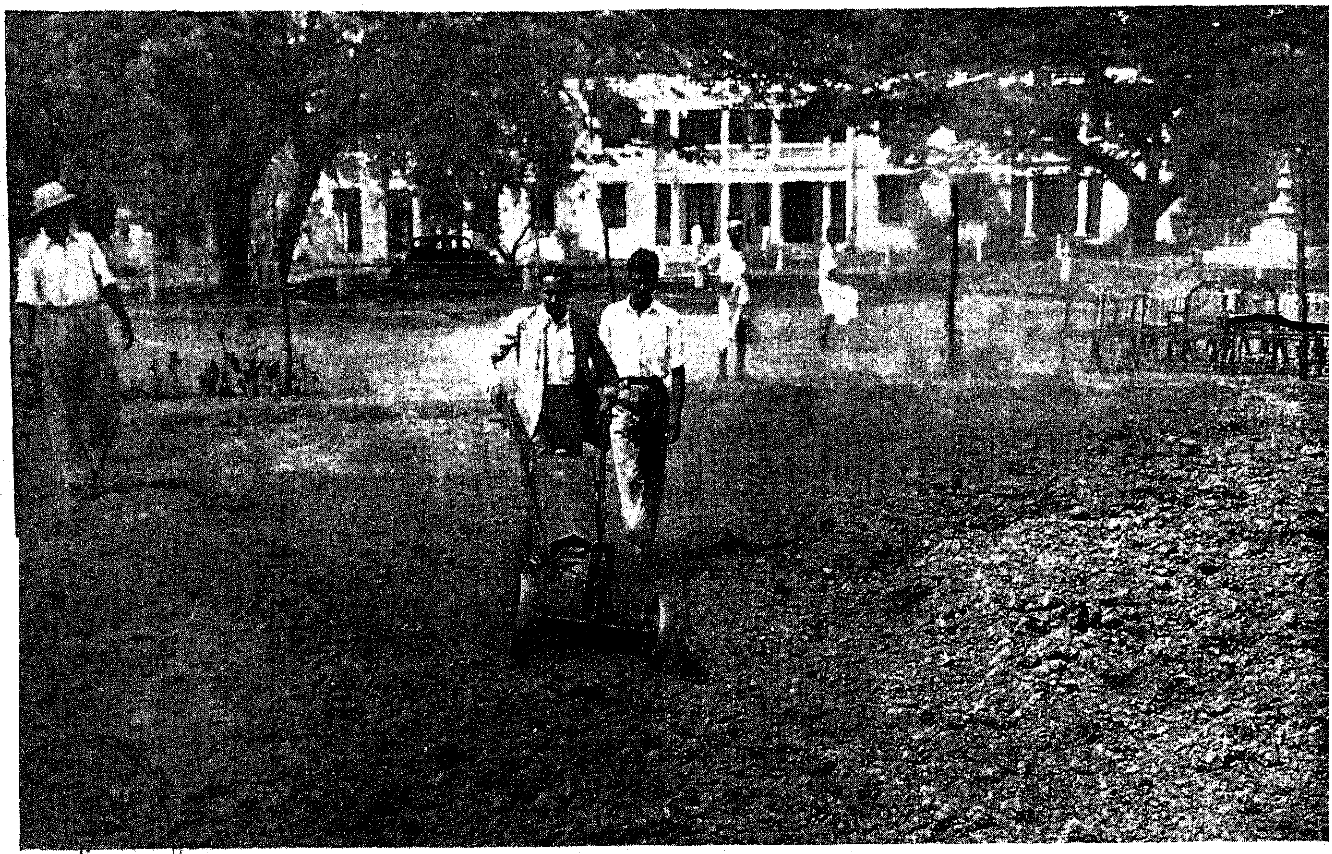
MADRAS INFORMATION

VOL. II MADRAS, 15th APRIL 1948 NO. 7

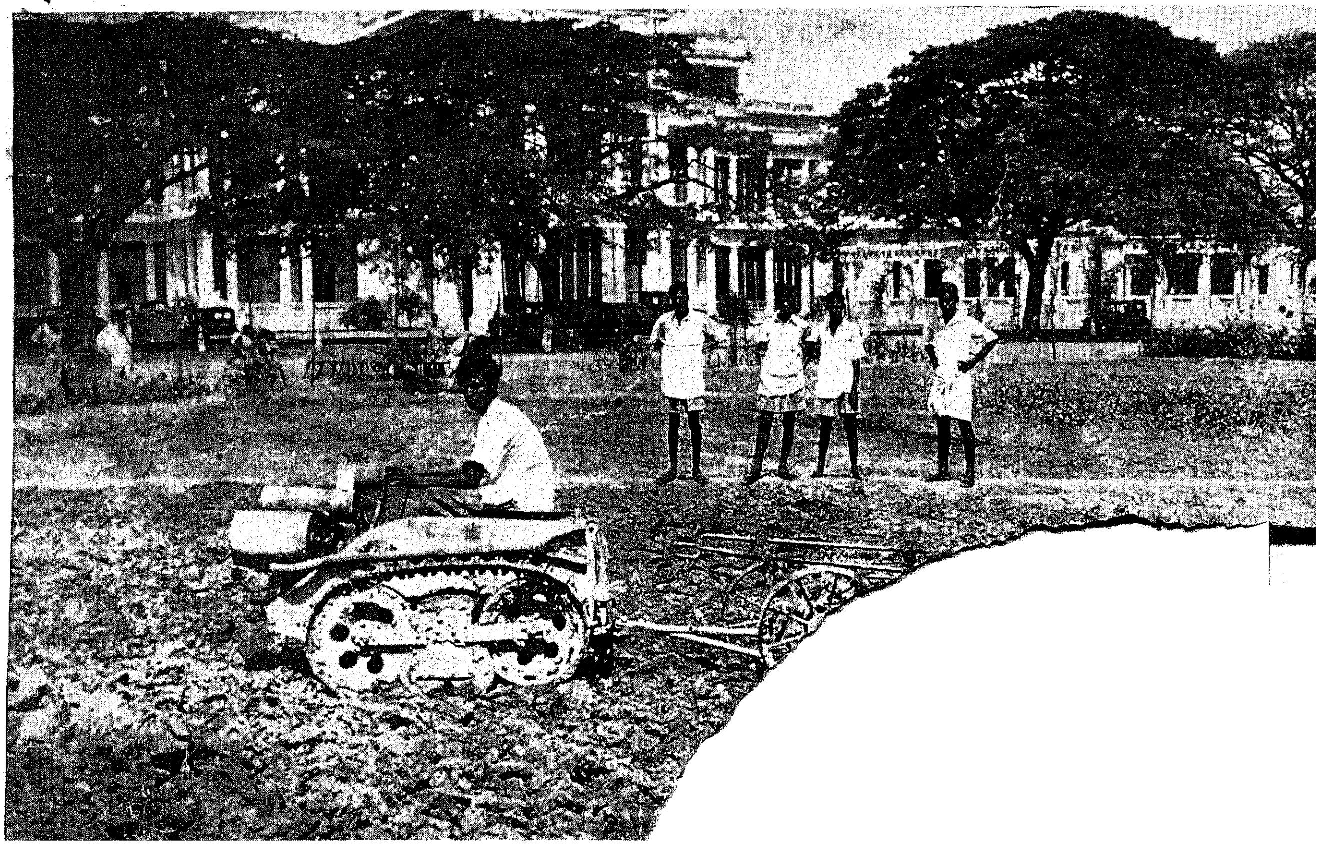
CONNEMARA PUBLIC
24 APR 194

Price

These Tractors can be used for a variety of agricultural operations



A Tractor in operation in the Government House compound at Mount Road



Madras Information

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Vol. II, No. 7 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" April 15, 1948

Current Topics

Food Front

Speaking on the food situation, recently the Hon'ble Premier in the course of a broadcast talk said: "The Central Government are taking steps to get over the food crisis that faces our province. On this account our responsibility increases still further. The production of foodgrains in the Andhra districts is more than the average. Owing to the failure of the monsoons in the Tamil and Malabar districts, all dry and wet crops in all districts except Tanjore failed. It is, therefore, the duty of the Andhra brethren to save their Tamil and Malayalee brethren. Foodgrains must especially be procured in abundance in the Northern Circars and distributed among other districts. The agriculturists living there have remitted only 40 per cent of the quantity due from them. Of the procurable produce, 60 per cent is still lying unprocured.

Production Statistics

The total quantity of rice procured up to 20th March 1948 is 284,527 tons as against 708,700 tons, the quantity expected.

	Target.	*Procured.*
East Godavari.	121,800	64,280
Guntur ..	84,000	28,072
Kistna ..	179,200	88,462
Nellore ..	50,000	12,698
West Godavari.	273,700	91,015

Communist Trouble

It is understood that, in a few villages people refuse to part with foodgrains owing to the instigation of the followers of a particular political party. The Communists induced the ryots not to harvest even the little crops that survived the failure of the monsoons. It is needless to say that it is atrocious in order to suit party purposes to induce [illegible] innocent people to resort to riots, [illegible]creas[illegible] the difficulties of obtain[illegible] in these days when the [illegible] failed and when there is [illegible]

So also, in the matter of cloth the members of this particular political party induce the mill labourers to refuse to accept the decision of the arbitrators and to strike work. As the result of this we are forced with a cloth-famine. The capitalists not realizing the awakening among the labourers and the world situation are bent upon making profits.

Strikes and their effects

On account of the strike at Coimbatore for the last ten weeks, one day's work that can be turned out by 30 lakhs of workers has gone in vain. This has meant a loss of about 34,000 bales of yarn and about 34 lakhs of yards of cloth to the consumer and a loss of wages of about Rs. 50 lakhs to the workers. The handloom weaver and the consumer have consequently been suffering. About 40,000 workers have also been suffering. All this loss cannot be made good, and it shows that the labourers, capitalists and politicians compete with each other and ignore the welfare of the nation. In consideration of their individual class interest they forget that the poor people are deprived of their legitimate food and clothing.

What the Hon'ble Premier has said above needs careful noting. It has been pointed out in these columns that a democratic State is not something apart from the people success, depending on the extent and manner of public co-operation. At no time in the past has such co-operation been more necessary than at this juncture.

Home Guards

The organization of Home Guards is a matter of common knowledge now. In a transitional period such as this country is passing through now, it is imperative that as many bulwarks as possible are provided against possible upheavals or disturbance of normal conditions. In this connection Dr. Subbarayan observes in the course of an article :

The main object which impelled us to introduce legislation (regarding Home Guards) was to create a body which would help the Police to deal with situations that might arise during any commotion or public disorder or grave menace that would undermine the stability of public life or imperil the moral well being of the citizens. It is a well-known principle in all countries that, as far as possible, civil commotion should not be interfered with by the armed forces, because the function of the Army is of a different category altogether, though when the necessity arises and when the situation gets out of control the aid of the army may have to be sought. The Police Force will ordinarily tackle such a situation. But in order to assist the Police force the Government wish to have a voluntary force who will aid and assist the Police and be subject to the disciplined control and surveillance of the Police Department for the time being.

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Home Guards' Part in Wartime

The part played by Home Guards in England and in other countries during the last war is quite well known to everyone. These Home Guards were able to relieve the regular Military Units of their ordinary normal internal defence duties enabling them thereby to pursue the enemy and engage them in action on foreign soil. The patrol of the coast line, the arrangement for the internal security, the maintenance of public order, the upkeep of public utility and national services, were some of the duties carried out by these Guards and their services really contributed much to enhance the power, prestige and efficiency of the Nation during very critical times.

Every event must have its lesson to impart. What the Home Guards were able to do during wartime, we could and should, with greater benefit and lasting advantage, devise to achieve by turning their activities in the direction of peaceful pursuits and towards securing abiding tranquillity, especially at a time when we are besieged with communal disturbances all over, with clash of interests, with economic upheavals, social disorders, agrarian riots and labour disputes.

Servants of the People

In our efforts to combat the present forces of disorder and to attain the goal of internal peace and fellowship, it is hoped that the Home Guards will have a very useful and glorious part to play by rendering every possible assistance to the Police in carrying out their instructions in a disciplined and exemplary manner. Far from being a menace to the people the Home Guards have the greatest opportunity of being the servants of the people and of redeeming them from the thraldom of communal strife and internicine bickerings which are constantly flaring up and are a menace to society. The Home Guards are a sort of a reserve power that will be brought into use only when there is disorder, riot and communal clash. They are a second line of defence to the Police in case of emergencies. I sincerely hope and wish that these Home Guards will have no occasion to be called out to duty and it will be a happy event if this happens to be the case; nonetheless we have to be prepared for all exigencies and that is the reason why we have taken such urgent steps to have this auxiliary aid to the Police force established.

Training in Self-defence

We, in this Province, are fortunate in having communal amity. But still skirmishes do take place in border districts and in other districts on account of agrarian and labour disputes. The Homeguards are created to meet situations arising out of these conditions. Besides, as a result of this measure, an opportunity is given to our men to train themselves in self-defence and self-reliance. These men should inspire confidence in the minds of all sections and of all communities that the Government they serve is a secular Government which has to safeguard the interests of all communities and sections of people and which knows no distinction between Muslim and Hindu whom, both, under the great inspiration and leadership of the glorious Saint of modern age, with his mighty weapon of Ahimsa, they have to take care of, under our common heritage.

Government-manufactured Articles

The Government's decision that Khadi should take the premier place in regard to the fulfilment of the requirements of the various departments, is a tribute to the memory of Gandhiji and is also in consonance with the policy of the Government of promoting the Khadi industry in the Province, as part and parcel of the scheme for rural development. It has been directed that all the officers of the Government in the Police, Jail, Medical and other departments, who have been enjoined to use uniforms should use Khadi for the purpose and that similarly the requirements of all the departments of the Government for cloth, curtains, towels, table-cloths, etc., should be met from Khadi. The only exception to this general rule that is proposed to be made is such cases where a special variety of cloth is required for a specific purpose and in such cases the reason why Khadi cannot be used should be explained to the Government and their sanction obtained for the use of cloth other than Khadi.

A similar policy of encouraging the use of articles manufactured in Government industrial or other concerns like the Soap Factory and the Malt Manufacturing Factory and by the Paper section of the Industries Department, has also been decided upon by the Government. Rightly has it been pointed out that it is not compatible with the spirit with which the Government have embarked on the production of these articles of general consumption, if Government institutions and local bodies and other institutions which enjoy Government grants do not encourage them by using them for their needs. Some of these articles produced or manufactured by the Government concerns, such as soap, malt, shark liver oil and so on are very popular among the public and command a good sale. There is no reason, therefore, why Government offices, educational institutions, hospitals or other public institutions should not secure their requirements of these articles whenever required for use from them. It is not primarily the intention that these concerns should make a profit at the cost of the general public; but, other things being equal, if the demand for articles manufactured in Government concerns goes up and the working of these concerns becomes a profit-earning proposition, then it will be profit justifiably earned.

Attention may, therefore, be drawn to the orders issued by the Government that hereafter products manufactured in factories and other institutions run by the Government should alone be purchased and only such articles as are not manufactured or produced by the Government should be purchased from other concerns. The order of preference in regard to the purchase of articles required by various departments has been laid down as follows:—

(1) Products manufactured in factories and other institutions run by the Madras Government;

(2) Products manufactured in other Government institutions in Madras Province;

(3) Products manufactured in India; and

(4) Products manufactured in other countries.

It is hoped that Heads of Departments of the Madras Government will take note of these instructions and will make a requisition to the Government of their total requirements of various articles, manufactured by the Government, during 1948-49. The p[illegible] behind these orders sh[illegible] general appreciation and [illegible] support.

Abolition of Zamindaris

Basic Procedure Explained

The abolition of zamindaris is a settled fact now. Not only in Madras, but in almost all other Indian Provinces steps have been taken already in this direction. There is now no room for argument about the necessity for zamindari abolition. The elimination of intermediaries between the ryot and the Government has been recognized as an essential preliminary to the rehabilitation of the ryot. The Congress manifesto of 1946 promised to eliminate intermediaries and evolve a new system of tenure in the country. In this connection the Hon'ble Mr. K. Venkata Rao, Minister for Revenue, has explained lucidly the general principles of the legislation on the subject. Speaking at the Assembly recently he referred to the two Bills and said: "One Bill seeks to prohibit alienation of certain defined types of land. The second Bill is to reduce the rental of the land. There was a fear in the minds of zamin ryots that the rates would be increased before the zamindaris were abolished. No other Province in India has thought of reducing rentals before they abolish zamindaris. Other Provinces which have published their Bills and those Provinces who are considering such Bills have not taken into account the need for reducing the rents in their Provinces. But in Madras we thought that the present rental collected by the zamindars is very high and ought to be brought down. As a matter of fact in 1802 the total rent was Rs. 72 lakhs and they were paying a peshkash of Rs. 48 lakhs. The present rental is over Rs. 2 crores. They have increased it by leaps and bounds. The Government thought that the first concession was to reduce the rents. There has been a proposal from the beginning that the rents should be reduced to the level of 1802; it received the concurrence of both Houses of Legislature in the year 1939. Now we are free to introduce a Bill for abolition of zamindaris straightway. That is the reason why this Government did not take further steps to continue the other Bill published in last January and they have now brought forward this Bill which has to become law. I have spoken in this House before about the 1802 rates. The main reason for bringing forward this Bill is that the tax structure of our Land Revenue system [illegible]d be [illegible]anged and put on a scien- [illegible]hether the rates are of the [illegible]702 or 1602. At present [illegible]o owns one acre or 10 acres or 100 acres or 1,000 acres pays at the same rate of land tax for similar lands, whereas in the case of income-tax and other taxes we pay according to the slab system. The land sytem should be on progressive taxation basis. Our present proposal is that a man who has got one acre of land must pay less than the rate which a man who owns 1,000 acres, pays. It is high time that we should introduce this system in this Presidency. In justification of that we are converting all the estates into ryotwari land. When all the lands become ryotwari lands, it will be time to codify the Land Revenue Law and then introduce the system of progressive taxation. Therefore this Bill does not contain provisions for progressive taxation. I am making it clear that it is the intention of the Government to bring in further legislation after this legislation becomes law. We propose to introduce a new system of taxation on progressive lines for all the lands in the Presidency including the present ryotwari lands."

Budget Facts

In the course of his speech at the tea party he gave to members of the Legislature, sometime ago the Hon'ble Sri Gopal Reddy, Finance Minister, analyzed some of the main trends of the Budget. *Inter alia* he observed:

"Let us congratulate ourselves that we have voted Rs. 70 crores 42 lakhs which includes 55 crores of rupees on the Revenue Account and 15 crores of rupees on the Capital and Loans Account. In spite of our financial dive-bombing, consequent on the Prohibition policy, our Budget continues to be the highest Budget next to the Government of India's. I have seen all the Provincial Budget Speeches and it is no mean satisfaction to all of us that we continue to hold the highest place, both in Revenue and in Expenditure. Though the U.P. has a larger population than Madras, their Receipts are 45 crores of rupees and Expenditure 50 crores of rupees; though Bombay is a much more prosperous Province than ours, their Expenditure is in the neighbourhood of 44 crores of rupees. We have taken up moral reform and re-armament very seriously and we are prepared to pay the price for them. Our Provincial revenues showed enormous elasticity this year in that, in spite of Prohibition we fared very well and added to our Revenue Reserve.

We are anxious to make our Province self-sufficient with regard to food. Though results are not apparent on the surface, all of us are keen on making a big drive to bring more acreage under cultivation. We have the spectacle of millions and millions of gallons of water going to waste on the one side and famine areas on the other. It is but right that we should give top priority to our Irrigation Projects which also bring in their wake Electricity Schemes.

Next in importance, if not of the utmost importance, is the maintenance of harmonious relations between communities and interests. In spite of some labour strikes and sporadic outbreaks of communal feuds we can claim that law and order were not seriously jeopardized in our Province and it is a matter for congratulation that in spite of what is happening up in the North we have kept our heads cool.

Our problems are so immense and complicated that whatever we do, looks precious little and we are apt to feel that nothing is being done. For instance, we are making rapid strides in education and our Education Demand is larger than the entire Budgets of Sind and Orissa and yet we feel that we are far away from our desired goal. It is so in every sphere."

Rajaji's Exhortation

"Slack work in the present state of affairs in India is treason," observed His Excellency Sri C. Rajagopalachari, addressing the Calcutta University Convocation recently. He said that the most serious offence against the state that one could commit in free India without realizing it, was idleness. "All work," he continued "is equally worthy nothing small or menial; it is all superior. What is unpleasant but necessary and carried out loyally though disagreeably, is the noblest service to the State and is superior service whatever be its conventional classification." His Excellency also spoke of the importance of example in the life of a nation and traced the undoubted influence of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, Swami Vivekananda,

and Gandhiji to their spotless lives. In conclusion he said: "Every time you find yourself tempted to stray from the path of truth and love, remember Gandhiji. Shall we hope that in 1950 or thereabout we shall be able to say truthfully that all of us are more earnest and less selfish in free India than before, that rice crop has been more abundant than in the days of the British, that the number of acres under cultivation is greater, that there is less crime and that the behaviour of men and women in India is superior to what it is in places not blessed by Indian culture? Then indeed we can claim that we have built a worthy monument for Gandhiji." His Excellency also exhorted the new graduates to be tolerant of others' feelings and said that charity in judgment was a civic policy of the highest practical value.

Frail crafts made with bamboos and used for carrying men in South India.

These words deserve to be carefully borne in mind by all citizens of this country. In this transitional period the responsibility of the citizens towards keeping the State on an even keel is greater than that in normal times. History has taught us that during abnormal times States and Nations were able to steer clear of all their troubles and difficulties mainly by the willing and ungrudging labour of the people. We have to learn from such examples and pilot the country by our conduct and sacrifice to smoother waters.

Hon'ble Mr. B. Gopala Reddy, Minister for Finance, gave a tea party recently to members of the Legislature.

Press Notes, Releases, etc.—A Digest

Fee Remission

The Government of Madras have decided that one-fifth of the additional income derived from the increase in the levy of instalments of school fees in the Government secondary schools from eight to ten should be utilized for the grant of half fee remissions to poor and deserving pupils of all communities studying in those schools. They have, therefore, directed that half-fee remissions at the rate of two in each of the forms one to six in all the Government secondary schools be granted every year in future and that the remissions for 1947–48 be allowed from 1st January 1948.

The remission should be awarded only to pupils who are not in receipt of any other scholarships or concessions and only on production of a poverty certificate from a responsible person as prescribed in the Madras Educational Rules and on the basis of competitive examinations as usual.

The remissions are to be granted under the same conditions prescribed for the award of Government scholarships.

[March 15]

Headmasters under Local Bodies

The question has been raised whether the allowance to headmasters of secondary schools, sanctioned by Government in their order, dated the 10th May 1947, with retrospective effect from 1st January 1947, can be paid to those who were on duty on 1st January 1947, irrespective of their seniority or tenure of appointment.

The Government consider that the allowance referred to above is for performing the duties, attached to the post of headmaster, and have ordered that it should be paid to those, who were on duty, on 1st January 1947, and that the amount of the allowance should be fixed with reference to the strength of the school, in which they were serving during that period. The transfers, effected with reference to paragraph 6 of the Government Order, referred to above, should not affect the [illegible] for t[illegible] allowance. The strength [illegible] and V should also be [illegible]nt for the purpose of fixing the amount of allowance, payable to headmasters of secondary schools, as the allowance relates to the number of pupils, whom the headmaster has to manage.

[March 15]

Dearness Allowance to Staff in Aided Institutions

In their order, dated 11th September 1946, the Government had directed that in addition to the teaching grant, a special grant, equal to half the difference between the maximum amount of dearness allowance, admissible at Government rates, and the amount of allowance, paid by the managements to the staff in aided educational institutions (other than elementary) in 1945–46, be paid to those managements, which did not pay at Government rates, subject to the condition that the managements should disburse to the staff the amount of allowance due, out of the special grant. The arrangement was continued for 1946–47 also. As all the managements of aided educational institutions are not paying dearness allowance at Government rates even in the current year, the Government have directed that the system be continued for 1947–48 also. The grant for that year will be paid in 1948–49 on the post-payment system.

[March 15]

Salt

The Government understand that in certain areas of the Province an artificial scarcity of salt has been created by the manufacturers of salt in collusion with the merchants with the result that the public are being compelled to pay an unreasonable price in those areas. The public are informed that the Government have fixed the maximum ex-factory prices of salt in all the producing districts of the Province and Collectors of all the districts have been empowered to fix the wholesale and retail prices of salt for the various consuming areas in their respective districts, on the basis of the ex-factory prices at the sources of supply. Salt should, therefore, be sold to the public only at the controlled rates fixed by the Collectors in their respective districts. The public are informed that wherever they have a reasonable doubt that they are being compelled to pay a price higher than the controlled rate, they may ascertain the controlled price from the nearest Tahsildar. They are also requested to bring to the notice of the local Revenue authorities all instances of profiteering, that may come to their notice. The public are requested to co-operate with the Government in enforcing the controlled rates and in checking blackmarketing and profiteering in this most essential commodity.

[March 19]

Handloom Cloth

In pursuance of their liberal policy in regard to handloom cloth, the Government have ordered that no permits under the Madras Cotton Cloth and Apparel (Exports) Control Order, 1946, need be taken out for the transport of handloom cloth and apparel from this Province to Coorg and the States of Sandur, Cochin, Travancore and Mysore. Clause 4 of the Madras Cotton, Cloth and Apparel (Exports) Control Order, 1946, has been amended accordingly.

[March 19]

Encouragement of Khadi

In memory of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government have directed that all the officers of the Government in the Police, Jail, Medical and other Departments, who have been enjoined to use uniforms, should use Khadi for the purpose and that the requirements of all the Departments of Government for cloth for curtains, towels, table-cloths, etc., should be met from Khadi. Exception can, however, be made where a special variety of cloth is required for specific purposes, and in such cases, the reason why Khadi cannot be used, should be explained to Government and their sanction obtained for the use of cloth other than Khadi.

The Government have also directed that hereafter products like soap, paper, cloth, malt, shark liver oil, etc., manufactured in factories and other institutions run by the Government should alone be purchased by all the Departments of Government, and only such articles as are not manufactured or produced by the Government, should be purchased from other

sources. The order of preference for the purchase of articles required by various departments should be as follows:—(*a*) products manufactured in factories and other institutions run by the Madras Government; (*b*) products manufactured in other than Government institutions in Madras Province; (*c*) products manufactured in India and (*d*) products manufactured in other countries.

The directions above will apply in the case of local bodies and educational institutions enjoying grants from the Government.

[March 20]

Relief to Oil Industry

It has been represented to the Government that the country chekku oil industry is in need of some relief in the matter of assessment to sales-tax. A Committee has accordingly been appointed to examine the feasibility of exempting from sales-tax the owners of a single country chekku or in the alternative of a certain quantity of oil produced from country chekkus. The Committee will meet from 1st to 4th April 1948 in the office of the Revenue Divisional Officer at Erode. Individuals or associations interested in the subject may send memoranda on the subject by post to the Commercial Tax Officer, Coimbatore, who is the Secretary of the Committee so as to reach him not later than 4th April 1948, or may appear in person before the Committee on the dates mentioned above in the Office of the Revenue Divisional Officer, Erode.

[March 21]

District Board Members

The Government have directed that the members, who are to be elected to the district boards, mentioned below, at the next elections, shall come into office at noon on the 1st day of July 1948, instead of on the first day of April 1948, as previously ordered:—

Names of district boards:—Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Tinnevelly, Madura, Salem, Nellore, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary, Anantapur, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Chingleput, North Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara.

[March 22]

Ambulances for Medical Purposes

The Government have sanctioned an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 37,500 on the purchase of three 135" W.D. Dodge chassis and their conversion into ambulances, two for Government General Hospital, Madras, and the other for the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram.

[March 22]

Transport Permits for Cloth

The Provincial Textile Commissioner issues the following statement to the Press:—

Consequent to the relaxation of control over the distribution of cotton cloth, the Government of India have decided that the powers delegated to the Provincial Textile Commissioner to issue transport permits for cloth (other than handloom cloth) under the Cotton Textiles (Control of Movement) Order, 1946, should be withdrawn. 'This decision has been taken with a view to ensuring that all movements of cloth are permitted only by a Central authority who can co-ordinate such movements and maintain accounts of the quantities moved from one zone to another, so as to ensure that the targets for mill-made cloth fixed by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, for various zones are correctly adhered to. All applicants for transport permits for cloth (other than handloom cloth) from the South Deficit Zone are, therefore, advised to contact the Textile Commissioner, Wittet Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay, hereafter. All such applications received in this office in future will be forwarded to the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, from this office.

Compulsory Exhibition of Approved Films

With the revival of the Information Films of India, the Government of India desire that, as during the period of war, every cinema exhibitor should, in the post-war period also, be compulsorily required to exhibit films approved by them, and also such other documentary and instructional films as may be produced by Provincial Governments or particular films of educational or informatory value, which may be considered by Provincial Governments to require public exhibition.

[March 24]

Export of Handloom Cloth

The Provincial Textile Commissioner issues the following statement to the Press:—

The Government have decided to relax the existing restrictions on the export of handloom cloth from this Province to the extent detailed below:—

(i) Movement of handloom cloth and apparel between the Madras Province and Coorg and the States of Sandur, Cochin, Travancore and Mysore in the South Deficit Zone will be freely allowed and such cloth and apparel has been exempted from the provisions of the Madras Cotton Cloth and Apparel (Exports) Control Order, 1946.

(ii) In the applications for the export of handloom cloth to areas outside the South Deficit Zone, but within the Indian Union, the name and address of the consignee need not be given and the 'means of transport' whether by passenger or goods train may simply be shown as "by rail."

Resettlement of Ex-service men

As the area covered by the nine Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges set up by the Government of India in the province of Madras at certain selected places, to deal with the resettlement and employment of ex-servicemen and discharged war workers in civil life, is large, extending to two or three districts, the Government of Madras have established a District Employment Officer in each district, except the Nilgiris district and the districts, where Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges are located. In view of the growing unemployment in the province, in the wake of prohibition, decontrol, etc., the Government of Madras have accepted, in principle, the proposal of the Directorate of Resettlement and Employment, Madras, to extend the scope of the Exchanges to all categories of employment seekers. The Government have, therefore, directed that the Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges and District Employment Officers should start at once the registration and placement of all categories of employment seekers, as an experimental measure in the first instance, without additional staff.

Fuel Oils

Numerous complaints are being received by the Government of Madras regarding supply of high speed diesel oil and other fuel oils required for pumping sets, mica mines, glass factories, etc. The Government desire to clarify the position of oil supply for the information of the public.

High speed diesel and other fuel oils have been in short supply for some time.

As a result of the failure of the north-east monsoon this year, agriculturists in the affected areas of North Arcot, South Arcot, Chingleput and Chittoor districts were forced to use an increased number of pump sets for agricultural operations, most of which are run on high speed diesel oil. In order to see that the food production is not affected, Government have asked the oil companies to conserve all available supplies of the oils to the affected areas and the companies have agreed to do so. The Government of India have also agreed to supply through the oil companies one lakh gallons of high speed and light diesel oil during February-March-April, for agricultural operations in this Province. This Government are sure that this supply will greatly help the agriculturists to work their pump sets.

As regards supply of fuel oils to other essential consumers, the Government are drawing up a priority list in consultation with the oil companies to ensure equitable distribution of the oils.

The Government are also confident that the position in regard to the supply of the oils will improve in the very near future.

[March 25]

Well Subsidy Scheme

Under the existing orders, a well is eligible for the concession under the New Well Subsidy Scheme only if it is completed by the 30th of June 1948. The last date for the disbursement of subsidy-loans is 31st March 1948. As the time available between 1st April 1948 and 30th June 1948 is not adequate, the Government have ordered that the time for completion of work under the New Well Subsidy Scheme should be extended till 30th ...tember 1948. This concession will ... ryots to whom loans were ...r to 1st April 1948.

[March 30]

Residential Scholarships

The Government of Madras have empowered the Commissioner of Labour to vary the rates of residential scholarships, sanctioned by the Labour department, to the students of Arts and Science Colleges and high schools, so as to enable them to meet their full lodging and boarding charges in the respective hostels, with effect from the current financial year.

The Government have also directed that the existing rule, regarding residence in a recognized hostel in respect of the recipients of residential scholarships from the Labour department, should be insisted on generally, and that the Commissioner of Labour should address the Government for the relaxation of this rule in really deserving cases.

[March 30]

Lift Irrigation

Representations having been received from ryots, soliciting information about the availability and other particulars regarding oil engines and pumps, which are to be used for the purpose of lift irrigation, the following details are furnished :—

A limited number of small size oil engines of horse-powers, ranging from 6 to 16, and suitable for well-pumping, is available for direct distribution to agriculturists from the local importing representatives, on the recommendation of the Agricultural department. The approximate prices of the different types available are : *Crude Oil Engines :* Lister 8 h.p., 1,200 R.P.M., Rs. 3,700 ; Lister 16 h.p., 1200 R.P.M., Rs. 5,200 ; Pelapone 10 h.p., 1000 R.P.M., Rs. 3,600 ; *High Speed Diesel Engines :* A.B.C. Engines 13 h.p., 1000 R.P.M., Rs. 3,200 ; A.B.C. Engines 6·5 h.p., 1000 R.P.M., Rs. 2,000 ; Turner Engines 3·7 h.p., 1000 R.P.M., Rs. 3,000.

The small h.p. Engines normally consume nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 gallons of oil per day. The cost of crude oil varies between 9 to 10 annas per gallon and high speed diesel oil costs nearly Re. 1-4-0 per gallon. The consumption of high speed diesel oil will be somewhat less than crude oil for the same size of engine.

Agriculturists, requiring any of the engines mentioned above, may apply either to the concerned District Agricultural Officer or the Director of Agriculture for further particulars.

[March 25]

Training of Clerks

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee, the Government have directed that the scheme for training of clerks be abolished immediately after the present session of the training school at Cuddalore is over.

[March 31

Cases under the Agriculturists Relief Act

The number of cases under the Agriculturists Relief Act disposed of by Civil Courts in the Province for the quarter ending 31st December 1947 was 351. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 31st December 1947 (covering 118 months) the total number of cases disposed of was 208,097.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 18 (1), 19 and 19-A of the Act for the quarter ending 31st December 1947 was Rs. 2,08,120. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st December 1947 stood at Rs. 9,82,48,118.

The amount scaled down by the courts on the applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 31st December 1947 was Rs. 1,21,236. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st December 1947, the amount scaled down was Rs. 4,72,36,878.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 31st December 1947 was Rs. 86,884. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st December 1947, the amount of reduction by scaling down debts was Rs. 5,10,11,240 and the percentage of reduction is 52.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 31st December 1947 was 306.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

[April 1]

Grant for Political Sufferers

In a Press Note, dated 10th January 1948, it was announced that applications for the grant of land to political sufferers should be made to the Collectors of districts before 29th February 1948. The Government desire to make it known to all concerned that the Collectors of the distr

have been instructed to treat applications received subsequent to 29th February 1948 and before 31st March 1948 as having been received in time. Such applicants who sent their applications subsequent to 29th February 1948 but before 31st March 1948 and which were returned to them as being "time barred" may again send their applications to the concerned Collectors immediately.

2. The Government have also decided to constitute a non-official Advisory Committee for each revenue district and assignments will be made by the Collector in consultation with the committee at an early date. [April 3]

Corruption among Government Servants

During the month of December 1947, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 220 persons including those against whom proceedings were pending at the end of the previous month. Of these, 4 were let off as charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 203 were pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 13 persons and they were suitably punished. The names and designations of these persons and the punishment awarded to them are as follow :—

T. S. Raghunadachari, attender, Education department (pay reduced by one increment for a year); Mr. Zawar Hassan Khan, Assistant Transport Officer, Anantapur (removed from service); Ramarao and Laxmayya, police constables, Vizagapatam South district, and Abdul Kareem, head constable, Chittoor district (dismissed from service); Thirugnanasambandam and Sodalaimuthu, police constables of 'X' Branch, C.I.D. (convicted and sentenced to six months R.I.); Kesavulu, police constable, Railway Police, Madras (pay reduced for two years); T. Abubacker, acting record attender, Judicial department, North Malabar district (removed from service); Sri R. Chockalinga Vanniar, lower division clerk, Revenue department, Tanjore district (increment stopped); Mr. Susai Michael, clerk, Revenue department, Ramnad district (dismissed from service) and Sri Harikesava Raju, Tahsildar, Tinnevelly district (sentenced by a Criminal Court); and Gopalan Nair, peon, Excise department, Tinnevelly Circle (pay reduced to bottom of scale). [April 6]

During the month of November 1947, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 239 persons including those against whom proceedings were pending at the end of the previous month. Of these 239, seventeen were let off as charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 209 persons were pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 13 persons and they were suitably punished. Particulars relating to the persons who were punished and the nature of punishment awarded are given below :—

Police department—Six persons—

(1) Udayanath Patnaik, police constable, Vizagapatam North district—Dismissed.

(2) P. Bapaniah, police constable, East Godavari district—Dismissed.

(3) Ramayya, police constable, Bellary district—Dismissed.

(4) Sreeramulu, police constable, Ramnad district—Pay reduced from Rs. 33-8-0 to Rs. 32 for two years.

(5) Muthuswamy, head constable, Salem district—Compulsorily retired.

(6) Sappani, recruit police constable, Trichinopoly district—Discharged.

Food department—Five persons—

(1) Sri V. L. Narasimhan, Deputy Tahsildar, Firewood Reception Depot, Salt Cotaurs—Reverted to Revenue department, Nellore district.

(2) Sowrapa Pedda Narayana, chowkidar, District Rationing Office, Anantapur—Removed from service.

(3) Gopalakrishna Pillai, Enquiry Officer, II-A Circle Office, Madras—Services terminated.

(4) Alluru, clerk, II-A Circle Office, Madras—Services terminated.

(5) Mr. Mohideen Sahib, clerk, II-B Circle Office, Madras—Services terminated.

Revenue department—Two persons—

(1) K. Venkateswarulu, clerk, Guntur district—Removed from service.

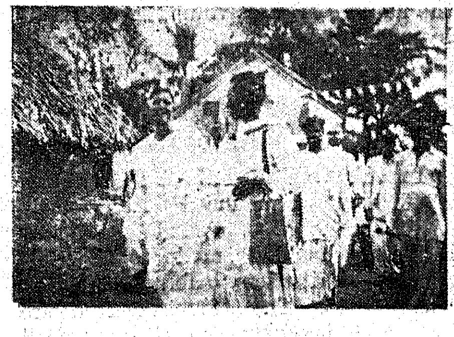
(2) Sri R. V. Lakshmana Ayyar, permanent Tahsildar and acting Additional First-class Magistrate, Malabar district—Dismissed. [April 1]

Certified School Pupils

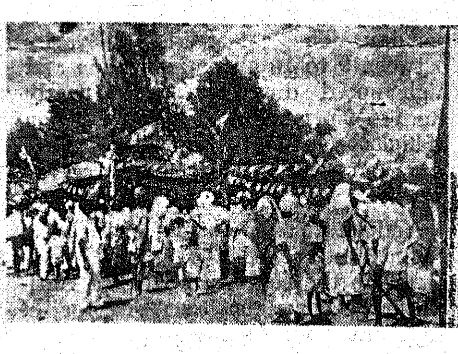
As the public are aware, the Government have sanctioned a scheme, granting scholarships to deserving pupils in the Junior Certified School, Bellary, with a view to enable them to pursue higher studies in an educational institution, or a higher course of training in an industrial school, after their discharge from the Certified School. A proposal to extend the scheme to other Certified Schools is under consideration.

Meanwhile, as it has been reported that pupils and ex-pupils of Certified Schools, and girls in the Stri Sadana (attached to the Vigilance Association) find it very difficult to get admission in the general schools under the Education department, the Government have directed that scholarship-holders from Certified Schools should be given preference in admission in all Secondary Schools under the management of Government, local bodies and private agencies. [April 5]

HARIJAN UPLIFT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH ARCOT



Hon'ble Mr. Kurmayya proceeding to the venue of the meeting.



A meeting organized by the Madras Friends Welfare Association was held in North A... Hon'ble Mr. Sivashanmugam...

Hon'ble Mr. Kurmayya insp... the Revenue Divisi...

Departments' Corner

Revenue Department

Alternative employment for ex-tappers

An interesting experiment is being carried on in Madura in the marketing of palmyrah jaggery produced by the jaggery manufacturing co-operative societies formed for the benefit of the ex-tappers in the district. Eight societies have so far been organized of which three societies near Dindigul have provided work for about 200 tappers. To enable the ex-tappers to get the maximum price for the jaggery produced by them, it has been arranged to pool the jaggery manufactured by the members of the respective societies and sell it by public auction at Dindigul. The Dindigul Co-operative Sale Society, Limited has undertaken to transport the jaggery produced by these societies, conduct the auction sale every week and pay the sale-proceeds to the societies concerned after deducting a commission of 2 annas per maund (8 viss). The tappers appreciate the idea of jaggery being pooled and sold in public auction as the prices they obtain are fairly satisfactory. It is proposed to try this experiment of sale in public auction in other prohibition districts where jaggery is produced on a large scale.

Industries Department

Post-war schemes

Industrial and technical education form an important aspect in the advancement of education of youngsters of this Province. Industrial and trade schools under the control of the Department of Industries and Commerce are functioning at Bellary, Mangalore, Madura and Calicut. Subjects like weaving, printing, dyeing, etc., are taught in these institutions. The School of Arts and Crafts, Madras, has been expanded and the old Government School of Technology has been reorganized in the new name of the "Central Polytechnic" with full time courses of three years' duration. There are also 82 recognized aided industrial schools. Every year the Government [illegible] giv[illegible] building and equipment [illegible] these schools. Industrial [illegible] are awarded to pupils [illegible] trade or profession in [illegible]ustrial school[illegible] to provide facilities for deserving students of this Province to undergo technical training in well equipped institutes in India.

As a measure of Post-war Development, New Polytechnics at Madura, Madras, Calicut, Cocanada, Mangalore, Vyyur and Coimbatore have been recently started. These institutions impart education in civil, mechanical, electrical, fisheries, engineering, etc. A Technological Diploma Examination Board conducts a common final examination in the theoretical and practical subjects for all the institutions and arranges to issue 'Diplomas'.

The Government have also under consideration the opening of a "Technical Teachers Training Course" in the Central Polytechnic, Madras; the diploma holders in different subjects will be trained for technical teachers' course. Proposals for enacting an Apprentices Act providing for the apprenticeship in industrial subjects are also under the active consideration of this Government.

The Province produces the largest quantity of leather but the bulk of it is exported abroad for conversion into finished products. Although an extensive and valuable tanning industry has been built up in this Province, the methods adopted are still crude, and so far no attempt has been made to develop the leather industry on correct lines. The conditions created by the war have stimulated the manufacture of different kinds of leather but progress in this direction has been hampered by the dearth of trained technical personnel. The Leather Trades Institute, Madras, was engaged partly on research and partly in imparting instruction in the manufacture of leather goods to prospective workers in factories. There was a clear necessity for an Institute of Leather Technology to train the men necessary for the development of the leather industry on scientific lines in this Province. A proposal to this effect was therefore included in the post-war programme and has since been carried out.

The following new courses of study in the Institute have been established :—

(1) A diploma course of three years' duration in Leather Technology.

(2) A certificate course of three years' duration in Leather Goods [illegible].

(3) Tannery operative course of one year duration.

(4) A part-time course of six months' duration in some special branches of the Industry.

Public Works Department

During February 1948, twelve items of road and bridge works at a total estimated cost of Rs. 30'39 lakhs were sanctioned by Government. They include the two major bridges costing each over Rs. 5 lakhs, one in Malabar district and the other in South Kanara.

Judicial Department

Civil Courts in 1946.

The permanent Civil Judicial Officers employed in the Province on 31st December 1946 were 14 High Court Judges, 1 Chief Judge and 1 Puisne Judge of the Court of Small Causes, 1 Principal Judge and 1 Additional Judge of the City Civil Court, 26 District Judges (including 1 Additional District Judge), 3 Agents to the Provincial Government in the Agency Tracts, 37 Subordinate Judges (including 2 Additional Subordinate Judges), 7 Special Assistant Agents in the Agency Tracts, 1 Revenue Officer (Deputy Collector), Cochin, exercising the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 140 District Munsifs (including 5 Additional District Munsifs), 11 Agency Munsifs and 4 Revenue Officers, exercising the powers of District Munsifs. Seventy-five Revenue Officers tried revenue suits as against 74 in the previous year; 5,763 village munsifs and 3,636 panchayat courts tried civil suits as against 5,674 village munsifs and 3,330 panchayat courts during the previous year. In the High Court, 2 temporary Additional Judges continued to sit throughout the year.

Suits

The total number of suits instituted in all the courts of the Province was 218,516 as against 218,160 in the previous year. Calculated on this basis, there was one suit for every 226 persons in the Province. The suits instituted in the Presidency town amounted to 1 for every 135 persons and in the mufassal to 1 for every 228 persons. There was an increase of 1,852 suits in the revenue courts, 5,628 in the mufassal civil courts, 492 in the Presidency Court of Small Causes, 24 in the City Civil Court, Madras and 90 in the High Court and a decrease of 7,730 in the village and panchayat courts. Eleven districts showed an increase in suits while the remaining 13 districts sho[illegible] a fall.

Original Suits in the High Court

On the Original Side of the High Court 440 suits were instituted during the year, as against 350 in the previous year, and the total number of suits for disposal was 756, as against 588 in the previous year. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 388, as against 315 at the close of the previous year. Out of the suits disposed of, 177 were after full trial, and their average duration was 424 days. The Master disposed of 79 suits and settled issues in 272 suits. The number of interlocutory applications disposed of was 2,968 of which 1,571 were disposed of by the Master.

Revision and References

The number of revision petitions filed in the High Court was 1,510, of which 363 were under section 25 of the Provincial Small Cause Courts Act. The number of petitions disposed of was 1,281, 80 per cent of which was dismissed. At the end of the year 1,198 petitions were pending. During the year, 80 references (17 under the Indian Divorce Act, 2 under the Stamp Act and 61 under the Income-tax Act) were made and 20 references were pending from the previous year. Out of these, 19 were disposed of and 81 were pending. Out of the cases disposed of, 11 were under the Indian Divorce Act, 6 under the Income-tax and two under the Stamp Act.

Legal Practitioners

One hundred and sixty advocates were enrolled during the year and a sum of Rs. 99,375 was realized on account of fees; the sanads of 3,074 first-grade pleaders (of whom nine renewed their sanads for the later half of the year) and 179 second-grade pleaders were renewed. This yielded a revenue of Rs. 79,648. Twenty-six cases of alleged professional misconduct by advocates were brought to the notice of the High Court during the year. Twenty-nine cases of alleged professional misconduct by advocates were disposed of during the year under report. Out of these, 15 cases were summarily dismissed and 11 were dismissed, after calling for the explanation of the advocates concerned. Out of the three cases heard by the Full Bench, the case against one advocate was dismissed, while two advocates were struck off the rolls. Thirty-two cases of alleged professional misconduct by pleaders were brought to the notice of the High Court during the year. Thirty-seven cases of alleged professional misconduct by pleaders were disposed of during the year. Of these, 16 cases were summarily dismissed, 2 were dismissed, after calling for the explanation of the pleaders concerned, and in 16 cases the report of acquittal by subordinate courts were accepted under section 15 of the Legal Practitioners Act. The three cases heard by the Full Bench ended in dismissal.

Electricity Department

The Government have recently sanctioned the following schemes involving the outlay noted against each :—

2. Eleven extensions costing over Rs. 10,000 and less than Rs. 30,000 each were sanctioned during February by the Chief Engineer (Electricity) at an estimated total cost of about Rs. 2 lakhs.

3. One hundred and twenty-six agricultural pump sets were connected up during the month.

4. Work on 18 sanctioned schemes were progressing during February.

Work on the erection of two 2,500 K.W. Transportable power sets in the Madras station was nearing completion and the sets were expected to go into commission shortly.

Labour Department

Labour situation in the Province

The Government have ordered that the Court of Enquiry appointed to look into the conditions of work of labour in Engineering firms and type foundries in the Province be constituted into an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication of the various issues in the dispute between the workers and managements of all engineering firms and type foundries in the Province.

In seven cases the Government have referred labour disputes to various Industrial Tribunals.

The workers of Sri Lakshmi Engineering Works, Madras, who struck on 26th February 1948 resumed work on 10th March 1948.

The workers of the Nataraja Engineering Works, Madras, staged a stay-in strike from 1st March 1948 and on this the management have declared a lockout on 3rd March 1948. The parties have been advised to make representations to the Industrial Tribunal. The award of the Industrial Tribunal is awaited.

Following an illegal strike by the workers of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, the management declared a lockout of the Factory from 4th March 1948. The Government have advised the management to reopen the factory with the aid of Police if necessary.

The Press workers in Bezwada struck work on 28th February 1948 demanding D.A., dress, dispensary, canteen, bonus and provident fund, etc. The Secretary, Andhra Provincial Press Workers Union, Bezwada, has been advised to make representations to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, to whom the dispute between the workers and the managements of presses in the Province have been referred for adjudication.

About 53 workers out of 700 of the Aaron Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ltd., Pappinisseri, North Malabar, struck work on 16th February 1948 as a protest against the management's dismissal of some workers. The Labour Officer, Calicut, is trying to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The management of the Narasu's Manufacturing Company, Salem, have reported that their workers have struck work from 10th March 1948. The Labour Officer, Vellore, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. His report is awaited.

[First fortnight of March 1948]

Co-operative Department

Co-operation from June 1946 to June 1947

General trend.—The expansion of the co-operative movement in war-time has not only been maintained but progress in new directions has also been attained. The number of societies increased from 16,068 to 17,057, their membership from 18·82 lakhs to 22·10 lakhs, the working capital from Rs. 3,862·43 to Rs. 5,097·51 lakhs. Apart from this there were 309 societies with 3·16 lakhs members on their rolls and Rs. 228 lakhs as their working capital under the Deputy Commissioner of Civil Supplies and Director of Resettlement and Employment.

A brief account of the working of the more important societies is given below :—

The Provincial Co-operative Bank.—The total deposits of the Bank on 30th June 1947 amounted to Rs. 412·42 lakhs as against Rs. 350·97 lakhs in the previous year. The Bank worked at a net profit of Rs. 3·16 lakhs as against Rs. 2·40 lakhs of the previous year. The amount of loans issued by [illegible] Provincial Bank was al[illegible] times the amount lent o[illegible] bre[illegible] yea[illegible]

District Central Banks were 30 in number. Their borrowed capital rose from Rs. 852·30 lakhs to Rs. 1,226·07 lakhs. Their working capital increased from Rs. 997·52 lakhs to Rs. 1,384·26 lakhs and their loan transactions from Rs. 1,942·61 lakhs to Rs. 3,246·55 lakhs. The position of bad and doubtful debts in relation to their reserve funds improved and all the Central Banks worked at a profit. The Central Banks have reduced their rate of interest on loans to agricultural credit societies to 4½ per cent to enable the latter to lend to agriculturists at rates not exceeding 6¼ per cent.

Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank.—The loans issued increased from 42·78 lakhs to Rs. 47·66 lakhs. The Banks earned a net profit of Rs. 2·75 lakhs for the year.

Primary Land Mortgage Banks were 120 in number. Loans issued by them to the members increased from Rs. 41·18 lakhs to Rs. 46·96 lakhs. Though there has been an increase in membership, share capital and the loan transactions of the banks, the balance to demand both in respect of principal and interest has also risen.

Co-operative Sale Societies.—The number of societies increased from 189 to 193. They issued loans to the extent of Rs. 131·79 lakhs as against Rs. 118·64 lakhs last year. The value of produce marketed increased from Rs. 124·60 lakhs to Rs. 143·23 lakhs.

Fruit Growers Co-operative Societies.—There were 14 societies at the close of the year. There was a considerable fall in the business of these societies this year due to the cessation of supply of fruits to the army.

Milk Supply Societies and Unions.—There were 21 Co-operative Milk Supply Unions both at the beginning and at the end of the year, while the number of milk supply societies increased from 253 to 269. The total value of milk supplied to consumers by the Unions and Societies was Rs. 68 lakhs as against Rs. 69·59 lakhs in the previous year. The total quantity of milk supplied to consumers fell from 32 million pounds to 28 million pounds. The fall is due to the termination of milk supply to the army by the Madras and Coimbatore Milk Supply Unions.

Sugarcane Growers Co-operative Societies.—There were 16 societies of this type. The Agricultural staff sanctioned by Government helped the memb[illegible] to grow improved varieties [illegible] ca[illegible] The Hospet Sugarcane [illegible]ciety and the Kirlampudi [illegible]rowers' Society did good [illegible]dvancing loans [illegible] members to the extent of Rs. 1·23 lakhs.

Cottage Industries Societies were 352 in number. The most prominent were 42 Egg Production and Sale Societies, 43 Women's Cottage Industries Societies; and 153 Palmyrah and Coconut Jaggery (tappers) Co-operative Societies.

Consumers' Co-operative Stores.—The number of retail stores rose from 1,346 to 1,688. The value of annual purchases and sales effected by the Primary Stores during the year was Rs. 1,713·55 lakhs as against Rs. 1,266·54 lakhs and Rs. 1,357·55 lakhs in the previous year.

District Co-operative Wholesale Stores were 22 in number. During the year the services of these stores were utilized to by the Civil Supplies authorities for procurement and distribution of foodgrains and imported commodities.

Producers'-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies.—The organization of Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies was a new feature of the year under review. There were 274 societies of this type at the end of the year with a paid-up share capital of Rs. 166·34 lakhs. Their total purchases and sales during the year were 10·06 crores and Rs. 10·57 crores respectively. The scheme of procurement through the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies has been suspended in the Circars districts.

Weavers Co-operative Societies.—The number of Weavers Co-operative Societies rose from 336 to 659. The societies produced goods valued at Rs. 424 lakhs and their sales amounted to Rs. 456·54 lakhs as against Rs. 347·69 lakhs and Rs. 373·09 lakhs respectively of last year.

Land Colonization Societies.—There were 26 land Colonization Societies. The area actually brought under cultivation by these societies extended to over 8,891 acres. There were 19 Land Reclamation Societies as against 14 in the previous year. These societies have reclaimed an extent of 1,583 acres of land.

Co-operative Housing Schemes.—House building activities have received special consideration during the year. A number of House Construction Societies have come into existence during the year, the prominent ones among which are the Madras House Construction Society, Ltd., and the Katpadi Co-operative Township, Ltd.

Jaggery Manufacturing Societies for ex-toddy tappers.—The formation of Jaggery Manufacturing Co-operative Societies for ex-toddy tappers also received special attention during the year. One hundred and fifty-three such societies were working on 30th June 1947.

Miscellaneous Societies.—There were 128 Co-operative Building Societies, 2,868 Scheduled Castes' Societies, 24 Labour Contract Societies, 4 Co-operative Insurance Societies, 4 Co-operative Printing Societies, 17 Irrigation Societies and 58 Agricultural Improvement Societies.

Topics of the Day

Rebirth of India's Shipbuilding Industry

On March 14, 1948, India's Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, launched S.S. *Jalausha*, the first steamer made in India by Indian labour and with the aid of Indian finance. This event will be long remembered as inaugurating the revival of a great industry in India, an industry which in all its glory of achievement had once fully symbolized her civilisation.

The event will make a landmark in free India's history also for another important reason, for hitherto the country's struggle for freedom and her people's struggle for acquiring sufficient shipping strength had run a parallel course. When after nearly 20 years of plucky fight against foreign interests, the Scindia Company signalized their enduring stability by erecting their new office building "Scindia House" in Bombay, they celebrated its opening in December 1938 as a national event. Then Sardar Vallabhai Patel who performed the opening ceremony, declared, "It was twenty years ago that India launched the vessel of independence and it was about the same time on 5th April 1919, that the Scindia Company also first launched its first steamer on the h[illegible]

waters. It was in this very April of 1919 that India began its struggle against the Rowlatt Act on the principles of truth and non-violence." In a message sent on the occasion, Shri C. Rajagopalachari brought out the significant relation between the nation's freedom fight and the struggle of Indian shipping. He added, "I may claim that this struggle started at Tuticorin with Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company for which the late Shri V. O. Chidambaran Pillai suffered. That Company broke on account of political complications."

If Indian shipping had thus to go through a process of overwhelming odds, the story of ship building in India remained for long one of complete obstruction. But Indian enterprise won through unremitting endeavour, when in 1941 a beginning was made with the establishment of a site for ship-building at Vizagapatam.

The site was called Gandhigram, where the foundation stone for the ship-yard was laid in June 1941 by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. This occasion was also treated by India's leaders as a national event, Mahatma Gandhi himself sending the Company the following message: "May your enterprise be successful and may it be beneficial to the whole country." Sardar Patel and his colleagues of the Congresss Working Committee were then in jail, but from there they conveyed their blessings, to which Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who was present at the ceremony, added her own "hearty blessings to the ships that would be built in the yard, to all merchandise that would go, to all the passengers that would travel by the vessels and most of all, to the ambassadors who will carry to the ends of the earth the message of the great Mahatma."

Growth of Gandhigram

Though the foundation stone of Vizagapatam Yard was laid in 1941 the progress of work was interrupted in 1942 owing to enemy air-raids, and the staff, machinery and equipment had to be shifted to Bombay. The construction of the Yard at Vizagapatam was resumed in 1943; but, owing to the war, the progress of work was severely retarded.

By 1947, however, the work had progressed to a stage, when the ship-yard consisted of two Slipways or berths for building the ships together with other necessary capital and technical equipment. The total amount invested in the yard comes to about Rs. 4 crores. At present the Yard has a building capacity of two-8 to 10 thousand tonners per year; and a scheme for expansion of the existing lay-out into a eight-berth Yard, it is understood, under consideration. In order to construct ships with component parts manufactured in India as far as possible, plans are also being prepared to build marine engines in the Ship-yard.

The Ship-yard can build ocean-going vessels with a maximum length of 550 feet and a maximum carrying capacity of 12,000 tons cargo. The yard comprises several pucca-built workshops, such as Hull Shops, Machine Shops, a Carpenter's Shop, Joiner's Shop, Blacksmith's Shop, Foundry, Power House, a 1,000-feet long Fitting-Out Jetty, storage places, etc. In the Hull Shops all steel materials are fabricated for erection of the new ships. The ships are equipped with heavy machinery like one man punching machines, shaping, plate bending and shearing machines, etc., and also electric overhead travelling cranes. The 1,000-ft. Fitting-out Wharf or the Jetty is used for installing, propelling and other machinery as well as electrical equipment in the ship, after she is launched from the berth and towed to the Jetty. The Jetty is being fitted with Travelling Derrick Cranes and a 100-ton Hammerhead Crane for lifting heavy machinery. The Jetty can simultaneously accommodate two or three large ocean-going vessels. Sufficient storage spaces are provided for different materials, viz., timber, steel and general stores. A railway siding has been planned to run right into the yard to facilitate transport of materials. Overlooking the entire yard, situated on a hill within the yard premises, are the main administrative offices, including an up-to-date and well-equipped Drawing Office.

The Yard employs at present over 3,000 workers more than half of whom are skilled or semi-skilled in the various engineering trades. Several experts in ship-building who have visited the Yard have spoken appreciatively of the quality of workmanship at Vizagapatam. With efficient supervision and with the setting up of special trade-training schemes, the Indian workers will acquire proper technique in ship construction in next 3 to 5 years. The ships are built under the supervision of the Lloyd's Surveyor and they will be placed in the highest class, viz., + 100—Al at Lloyds.

As ship building is a highly specialised industry, the Scindia Company engaged from the very beginning seven European technical experts with considerable experience in British ship-yards. In addition, the Company has engaged several Indian technicians with previous experience in engineering workshops besides Bevin Boys and Degree and Diploma holders in Engineering engaged for training in various sections. Thus over 50 technicians are under training for supervisory work. The Company has also a scheme under which it has sent 10 tried Indian technicians to the U.K. for higher training in Ship-building and Marine Engineering in British Ship-yards and intends to send 10 more men as those now in the U.K. return to India.

The *S.S. Jalausha* is a single-screw cargo steamer having a deadweight capacity of 8,000-tons on a draft of 25 feet. The vessel's dimensions are: Overall length 415 feet, Moulded breadth 52 feet, and Moulded depth 30 feet 6 inches. The vessel is propelled by a single screw triple expansion reciprocating engine developing 2,600 Horse Power. The steam for the motive power will be supplied by three coal-fired single-ended Scotch boilers. The vessel is designed for a trial speed of 11½ knots and is expected to maintain a speed of 10½ knots in service. The accommodation for the officers and crew and 12 passengers is being arranged in accordance with the latest convention adopted at the International Maritime Conference at Seattle.

Government's Pledge to the Industry

Dr. Rajendra Prasad while laying the foundation stone of the ship-yard in 1941 had said, "Today we may not be able to give you anything more than our sympathy and moral support and even consolation in your disappointment, but there is always a tomorrow, and the brighter tomorrow for a nation can never fail to rise." And seven years after, on January 1, 1948, i.e., four months and half after India's achievement of political freedom, the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Minister of Industry and Supply, visiting Gandhigram declared, "I can give you this assurance that in the next few weeks, it will be possible for the Government of India to enunciate its main industrial policy and also to determine, in order of priority, the items of work that have to be taken in hand as soon as possible and, obviously, building of aeroplanes and ships will occupy a very prominent place."

The Scindia and its associates have at present 2

small ships. They lost during the last war seven big and four small ships due to enemy action. These organisations had built in the United Kingdom eight big and ten small ships between 1927 and 1938 and one big ship in 1946. Their tonnage now on order in the United Kingdom consists of six big and two small ships which will cost over Rs. 5¾ crores; two of these, viz., S.S. Jalazad and S.S. Jalsawahar were launched in September 1947. Of the two 8,000-tonners whose construction has been undertaken at the Company's Yard at Vizagapatam, the first, viz., "S.S. Jalausha" will be launched on March 14 and the second, six months thereafter.

In 1949, the Company expects to launch three similar ships. From 1950 onwards, the Company hopes to build every year five or more 8,000/10,000-tonners at the Vizagapatam Yard.

The tonnage on the Indian register to-day is in the neighbourhood of three lakhs. The target set by the Government and the country is 20 lakhs of tons for carrying India's entire coastal trade and for substantial carriage of overseas import and export trades in Indian bottoms.

According to the data submitted by the Government of India's Ministry of Industry and Supply to the Industries Conference there are six firms in India capable of undertaking new construction, three in Calcutta, two in Bombay and one at Vizagapatam. The target set for construction in the first instance is 10,000 gross tons per annum, which is their present productive capacity. This would, however, be followed by a second phase of development from 1950, when it is expected to build 50,000 gross tons per year. For this phase at least 50 building berths would be required, out of which provision for eight berths would appear to have already been made by Scindia Company. The note of the Ministry of Industry and Supply adds that it will be necessary to construct three more ship-yards in order to lay out the other building berths.

It is in the context of these facts that the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee gave his assurance to ship-building industry in India. The Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Gandhigram to launch "Jalausha" being a fur[illegible] token of the Government's [illegible] Meanwhile this latter event [illegible]ther occasion when Pandit [illegible] Nehru will himself be [illegible] a national activity, which [illegible] in realising one [illegible] earlier dreams. For exactly ten years ago, he had said wistfully, "We have been in the past a great maritime nation, and even to-day we have the talent, the trained men and the resources to build up great shipping services. The Scindia Company has been a pioneer in this field and in spite of opposition and obstruction, has made good. It has deserved its success. But this is only the beginning. I am *impatient to see* Indian ships carrying the flag of India across distant seas to far away countries."

Ten years have passed since this statement was made, but with the nation's success in the freedom struggle there are ample signs to show that Pandit Nehru's hopes are bearing fulfilment. His launching of "Jalausha" on March 14 will be the first step taken towards that end.

Role of Forests in Indian Economic Life

"The time has come when we must revise our entire outlook in the matter of utilisation of forests in India. Past policy, though based on essentially sound principles, appears to have been rather static in character, now it must be more dynamic," stated Mr. B. R. Sen, Agriculture Secretary to the Government of India, opening a three-day session of the Central Advisory Board on Forest Utilisation in Dehra Dun recently.

Emphasizing the importance of Indian forests in making India economically stronger, Mr. Sen referred to the existing forest policy, which was laid down in 1894. Its main principles were (*a*) that the need to preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the country, i.e., to prevent floods, soil erosion and dessication, must be the first consideration in any scheme of forest management, (*b*) that the preservation of the minimum amount of forests necessary to satisfy the wants of the local population for fuel and house building must come next in importance; and (*c*) that the exploitation of forest resources for commercial purposes is permissible only after the first two needs are adequately satisfied.

The essential soundness of this policy will hardly be challenged even to-day but the question which arises is whether in the new conditions in India the administration of that policy needs any change. To deal with this question we must take certain essential facts about Indian forests into account.

Forests in India

What proportion of a country ought to be forest land in the interests of the country as a whole is a problem on which various opinions have been expressed. Sir Herbert Howard, late Inspector-General of Forests on a study of European conditions, expressed the view that 20 to 25 per cent of the land in India ought to be covered with forests, properly managed and distributed both for protective purposes as well as to supply the general and village consumers all over the country. Of the total area of 625,000 square miles in India about 155,000 square miles or about 25 per cent are estimated to be under forests. At first sight it might appear that the present area under forests in India should be adequate for her needs. This, however, is not correct. About one-third of the area under forests is under communal or private ownership which as in other countries, has been extremely wasteful in character. Within the definition of properly managed forests, we can include only about 11 per cent of the total land area which are of the reserved and protected types.

The present distribution of forests in India is also far from satisfactory from the point of view of meeting the needs of local village consumers. The Provinces north of a line from the Gulf of Cambay to Calcutta are particularly deficient in forests except in patches.

Soil Erosion and Forests

Floods and soil erosion are two of India's greatest problems in connection with the increased production of food. Though neither of these problems are new, there can be no doubt that in recent years floods are taking an increasing toll of our crops. The rapid progress of soil erosion in different parts of the country has also been a factor of grave concern. Both these problems are intimately connected with the management of forests in the hilly country and at the headwaters of rivers. Though a large portion of these forests is under the management of the Government quite considerable areas are under private ownership, which during the last few decades have been recklessly exploiting them for grazing or fuel, exposing considerable areas to the dangers of floods and soil erosion. The matter has now the fullest attention of the Government of India. Proper land management with a view to control floods and soil erosi[illegible]

will be an important subject for study by the Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, which is already functioning, and the Land utilization and soil Conservation Board which is proposed to be set up at the Centre. 'Forests,' however, are a Provincial subject and unless there is full and active co-operation from the Provincial Governments, success in this field must be limited.

Need of Fuel

So far as village consumers are concerned, while the policy of making the supply of fuel and timber to them as second in importance only to the control of floods and erosion is unexceptionable, the application of that policy does not appear to have yielded satisfactory results. Nine-tenths of the U.P., half of Bombay, most of West Bengal, much of Bihar and the whole of the coastal areas of Orissa are almost completely without any forests. The small quantities of fuel and timber required by the villagers in these areas cannot be transported across long distances within their purchasing power, the villagers therefore have been compelled to use one of their most valuable agricultural assets for fuel which has seriously affected their production. Agricultural crops depend very largely on the supply of manures. India's soils are particularly deficient in nitrogen. It has been calculated that the amount of nitrogen required to make up the loss through crops every year is about 2½ million tons.

In the past India has been very largely dependent on cowdung to supply the nitrogen deficiency. The total production of cattle manures in India is estimated to amount to 160 million tons of dry weight or 800,000 tons of nitrogen Actually, however, 40 per cent of what is produced is used as fuel; thus about 320,000 tons of nitrogen which can produce an additional 1·75 million tons of rice is lost. The national importance of saving as much of this cowdung manure as possible will be clear. This saving can only be achieved if the rural population is provided with fuel in the form of some quick growing trees where there are no natural forests to draw upon. The question has been discussed in the past both by the Centre and the Provinces, but owing to the lack of a determined policy, there has been little progress in the growing of such trees. The implementation of such a policy must therefore constitute one of our most urgent and important problems.

Forests and Industry

When we come to the exploitation of forests for commercial and industrial purposes we find the existing policy still more inadequate and lacking. Under the policy laid down in 1894, the uses of forests in India have been confined very largely to (a) the supply of railway sleepers and (b) furniture and house building. The bulk of the valuable hard-woods is reserved for railway sleepers but even then the supply has been found inadequate and the deficiency has been met by imported sleepers of timber and steel. For household purposes also large imports of teak came from Burma.

The insufficiency of the Indian forest is stated to be due to the scattered nature of her hard-wood trees which makes economic exploitation difficult and the reluctance of the consumers to use any timber other than those which belong to the primary species. In the India of to-day such a halting and unprogressive policy of exploitation can hardly be permitted to continue. Though India is largely an agricultural country the standard of living of her masses can be substantially raised only if India develops her industries simultaneously on a wide scale.

Timber to relieve Steel shortage

India has now vast schemes for industrial expansion based on the use of structural steel which is in short supply. Can treated timber replace structural steel to any extent? Persons of undoubted technical knowledge and experience have told us that treated timber can replace steel in the construction of highway bridges up to an extent, and completely dispense with steel for electric transmission and distribution lines, telephone and telegraph poles, and roof trusses for factories, godowns and workshops, aeroplane hangars, etc. The cheapest steel in the world is produced in Belgium and yet Belgium finds it more economical to use treated timber for telegraph and telephone poles than steel. In the United Kingdom also over 90 per cent of the poles for telegraph and telephone lines are from timber imported from Scandinavia. In U.S.A. up to 80 per cent of the bridges on most of the leading railways —which use much heavier locomotives than in India—have till recent years been built of treated wood and not steel. If the countries so highly industrialized can find such uses for treated timber, why should India not try and do the same, especially when her entire industrial progress is threatened to be held up or lack of steel? I have had an opportunity to discuss this matter with some of the major consuming departments of the Government of India and I have been given to understand that the main obstacles in the way of great [illegible]lization of Indian timber in the past has been the non-availability of timber properly treated at centres convenient from the point of view of transport. This, however, is a problem which is surely not beyond administrative solution. I may say that the matter has already been taken up by the Government of India for examination. If the Advisory Committee can give us any practical suggestions in dealing with this problem, we shall be most grateful.

Plywood and Railway Sleepers

Apart from the use of treated timber in place of structural steel, there are other industries in which Indian timber can play a more positive and effective part than it has done in the past. Plywood, for instance, can be one of the most important timber industries in India. The annual requirements amount to 150 million square feet. Large quantities of plywood used for packing Indian tea for export are now imported. With a little more enterprise in research and organization on our part and a little more co-operation from the tea industry it should be possible for India to supply all demand from within the country.

The estimated annual requirements for railway sleepers amount to 3,600,000 B.G. sleepers and 2,600,000 M.G. sleepers. The present production from Indian sources amounts only to 1,500,000 B.G. sleepers and 1,500,000 M.G. sleepers. The Forest Institute has now offered 36 species of secondary timber for sleepers. It is hoped that the Railways will find it possible to eliminate their demand for steel for this purpose by making the utmost use of the available species, even though the latter may not be as satisfactory as hard woods.

The jute and cotton mills require 552,000 gross bobbins annually. Before the war almost the entire demand was met from outside. During the war the Indian industry was able to meet the entire demand. Imports have started again with the end of the war. It is clear, however, that if the Indian industry is properly organized and the supply of the timber required is attended to, India can be self-supporting in the supply of bobbins.

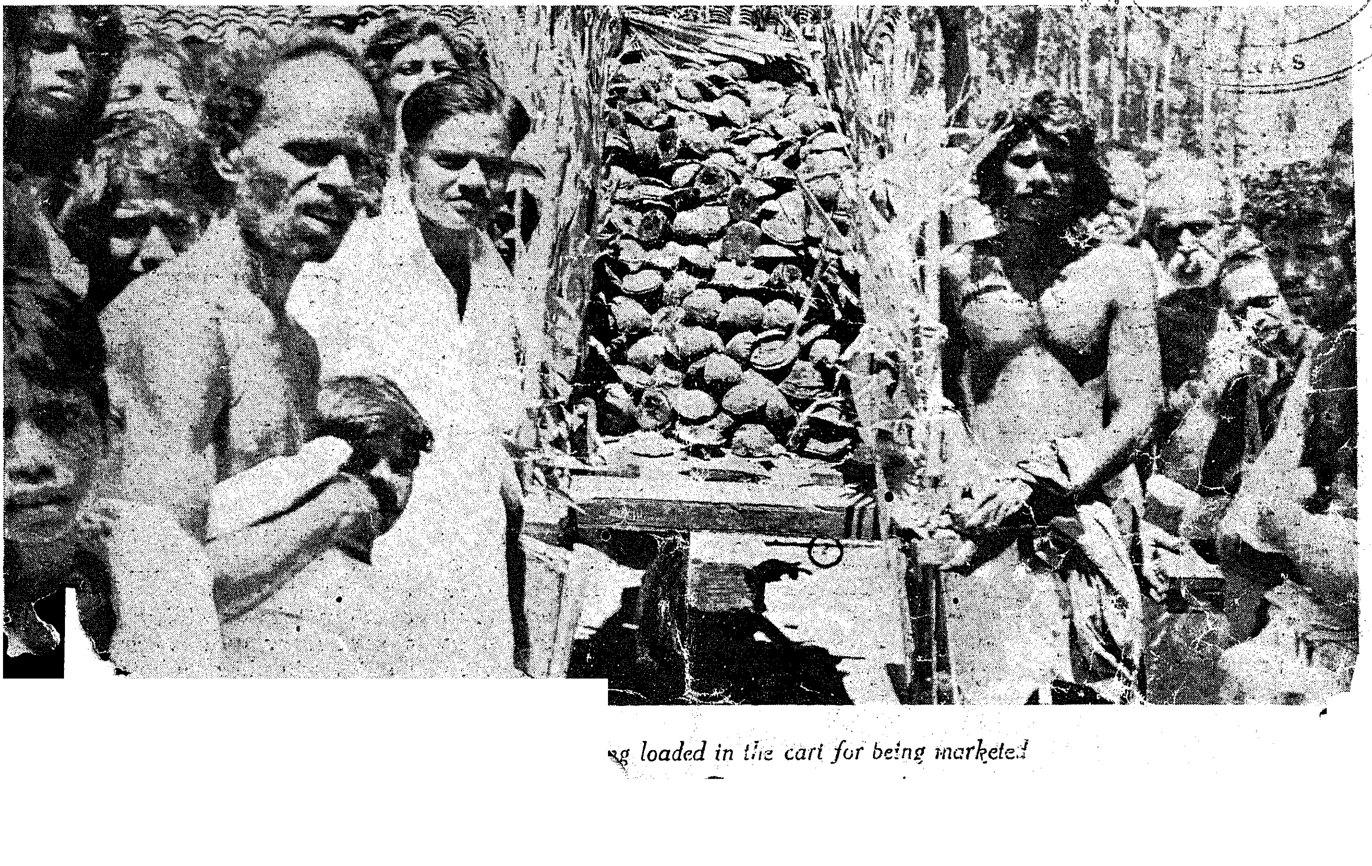
Newsprint

Another important indust[illegible] can be developed is newsp[illegible] present annual demand is[illegible] all of which is importe[illegible] [illegible]untries. Val[illegible]

These ex-tappers do not lack jobs

Families of ex-tappers engaged in jaggery manufacture

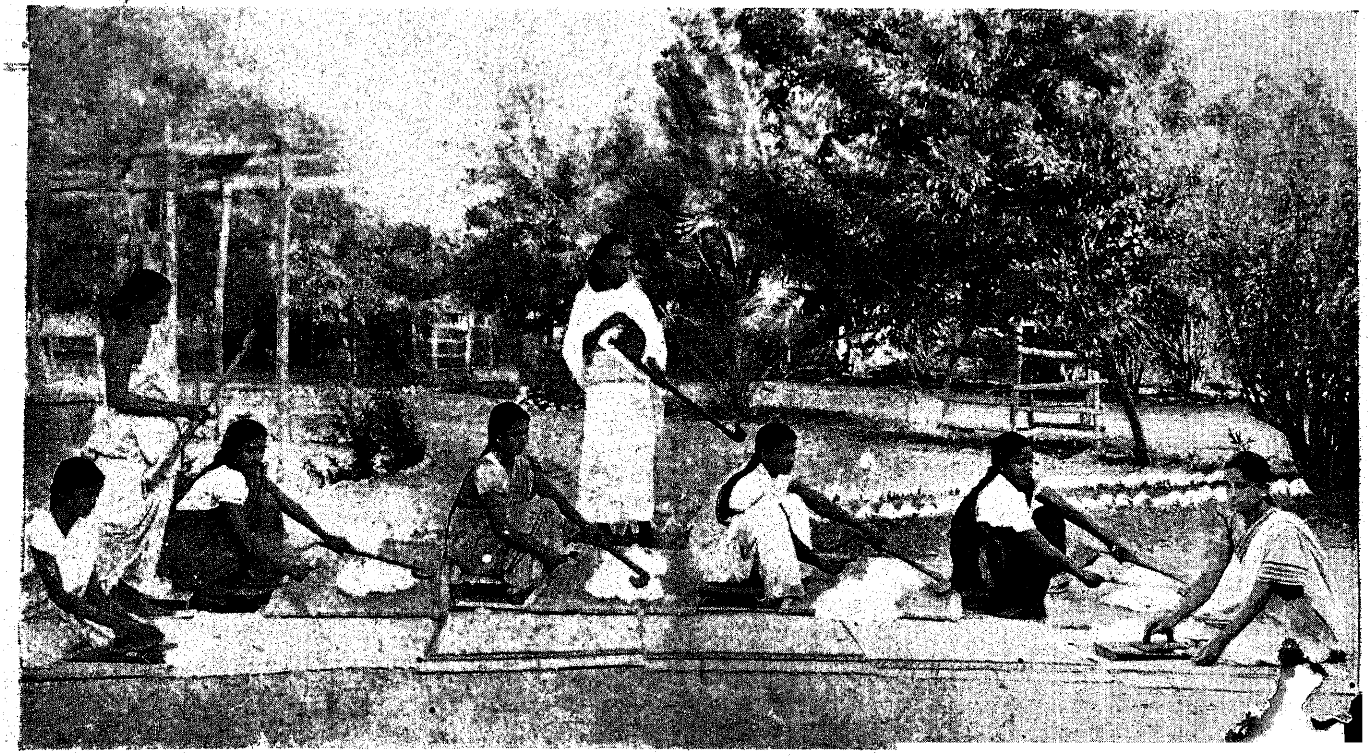
CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
24 APR 1943
MADRAS



...g loaded in the cart for being marketed

"I see God in every thread that I

Group photo of Principal, Teachers and Students of the Veerpandy Khadi Vidyalaya, Tiruppur



Students are carding cotton lint and making sliver

draw on the spinning wheel"—*Mahatmaji*

24 A... MADRAS

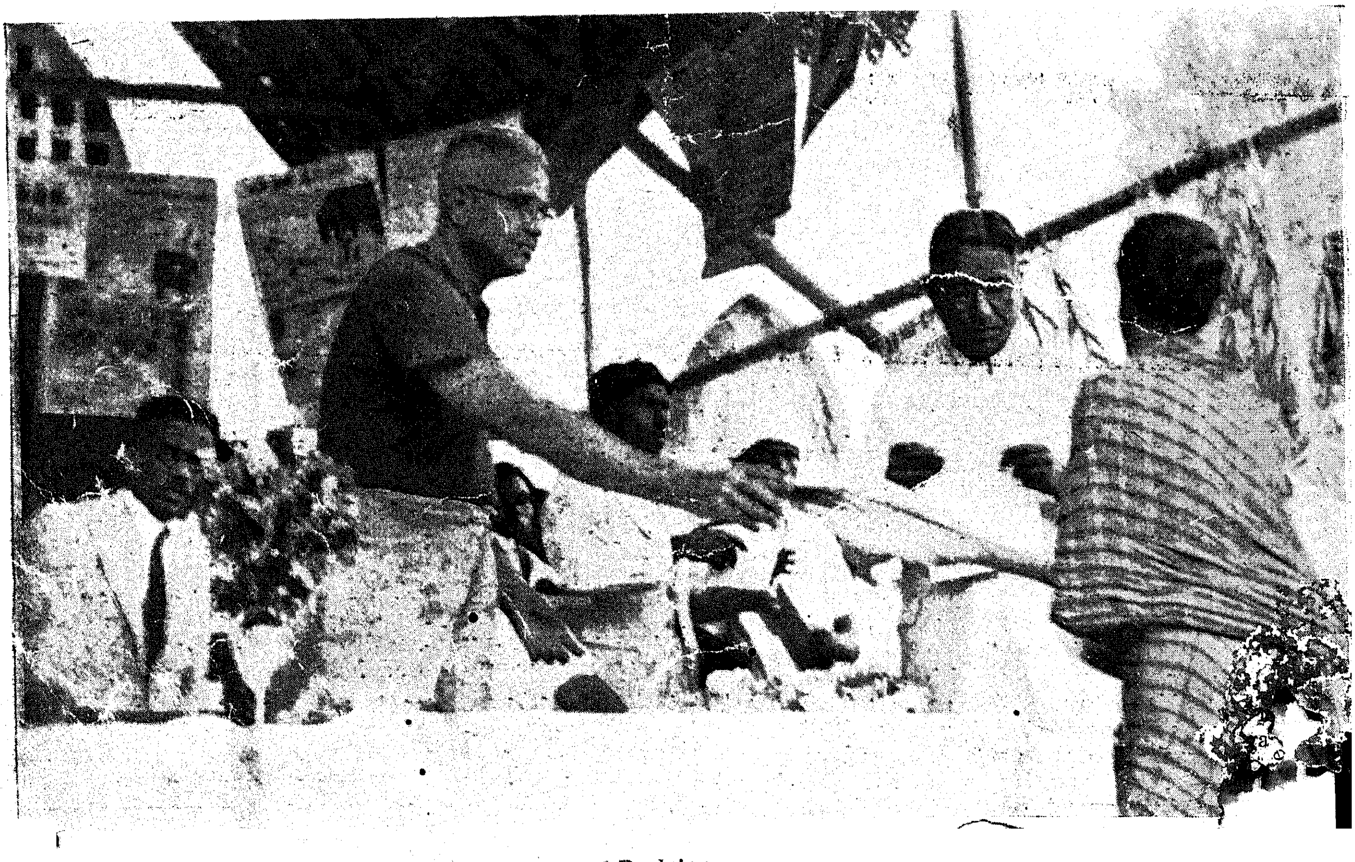
The students at Taklie Spinning. Those sitting are spinning in Charka

...its allied activities in the Khadi Vidyalaya, Tiruppur

Rural Sports in a Prohibition Area

Sports held at Michaelpatti in Tanjore district

24 APR 1949



The Commissioner of Prohibition

has already been carried out and we saw the paper produced from *broussonetia papyrifera*, popularly known as paper mulberry, tested by the "Statesman" the other day with very satisfactory results. If plantations of the fast-growing paper mulberry are taken up in right earnest there is every reason why within a reasonable time India should be able not only to supply but also to keep pace with her growing needs for newsprint.

Applied Research

There are other industries in which forestry can now play an important part. The time has come when we must revise our entire outlook in the matter of utilization of forests in India. The policy in the past, though based on essentially sound principles appears to have been rather static in character; now it must be more dynamic. While the prevention of floods and soil erosion and satisfaction of the fuel and timber needs of the local village consumers must continue to receive priority, the use of our forest resources for the industrial development of our country must also be given a prominent place in our future programmes of forest development. The success of this policy will, however, depend on certain definite factors. We must extend and intensify our research activities to meet all technical needs and problems. We must overcome the prejudice of important industrial consumers against the use of the secondary species, which is holding up progress. And most important of all, we must revise our felling, regeneration and plantation practices to the extent necessary to cope with the growing volume of demand which will arise under the new policy. It will also be necessary to devise much more effective arrangements than in the past, to bring the uses of forest products for industrial and commercial purposes, in the light of the results of the latest research, to the notice of all concerned. Towards the success of this policy, quite apart from the Government, the industrialists can play a decisive part.

'National Employment Service'

The Mayor surveys position

That Employment Service is a real necessity in this country was stressed by the Mayor of Madras in the course of a broadcast talk recently. He said: "National Employment Service" bring employment seekers in close touch with employers; they do away with middlemen and jobbers and place before employers exactly the type of men they require. One should not, however, go away with the impression that such Employment Service can solve the problem of unemployment taken as a whole. It should not be thought that unemployment caused by a general economic depression could be solved by this service. They can only draw attention to the amount and nature of unemployed labour at any particular time so that the State can take suitable action for its utilization. This is necessary for any kind of planning for our country. There must be an accurate and sufficient data of av[illegible]le man-power. This can only [illegible]ied by Employment Service.

[illegible]ing of such National Employment [illegible]ervice is not a new idea. [illegible] for such service has been [illegible]he International Labour [illegible] first session in [illegible] all progressive [illegible]onstituted such

In our own Province we have a Regional Exchange at Madras and Sub-Regional Exchanges at Bezwada, Vizagapatam, Anantapur, Vellore, Calicut, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Madura. Besides this there is a District Employment Office at the headquarters of every district except the Nilgiris which has been clubbed with Coimbatore. Besides Sub-Regional and Employment Exchanges we have Assistant Directorates of Regional and Assistant Public Relations Officers.

The first step in using this Employment Service is the registration of available man-power and the recording of the skill based on experience of previous employment of each worker. The second step involves an impartial assessment of the aptitude and skill of each worker. The third step is the listing of vacancies after a careful job analysis of each vacancy. Finally these Services scrutinize the categories of employment for which suitable candidates cannot be found and also ascertain the number of workers in each category for whom it is not possible to find suitable employment.

These Employment Service have another important function to perform. Their usefulness is certainly not restricted to the tackling of immediate [illegible]blems. They can do much to prevent mis-direction of manpower leading to future maladjustments. Thus Employment Service will have to anticipate the needs of the next generation and will have to provide for them by vocational guidance and training.

During the short period the existing National Employment Service were working a number of difficulties have arisen which have contributed to the rather slow development of this useful organization. One has been the reluctance on the part of many ex-servicemen to take full advantage of the employment facilities. It is but natural that ex-servicemen with money in their pockets and not having been with their families for some time naturally want to stay at home for a time and therefore do not show a keenness to take up the first job offered to them if they do not find it attractive. These ex-servicemen also found it difficult to reconcile themselves to the existing conditions in civil life. Not having been accustomed to manual labour they found it difficult to accept employment involving manual work. This resulted in a not too encouraging response by the ex-servicemen. But I am sure these are things of the past. I am certain that ex-servicemen will have realized the usefulness of such Exchanges and would accept the employment offered by such National Service.

The private employers also does not at present make full use of this new service because he fears that it will be linking up with official red-tape. Vested interests may add to the difficulties and try to impede progress of service which often cuts across a number of well-established malpractices. The main duty of any such National Employment Service is to bring employers and employment seekers together. Further cordial relations should be established by the employer and employment seeker only.

There is no doubt that ultimately the scope of Employment Exchanges should be extended to others besides ex-servicemen. At a meeting of the Conference of Labour Ministers held in Delhi sometime ago it was stated that the objects of Employment Service are (1) the placing of ex-servicemen and war-workers and ultimately all workers in employment, (2) to increase the mobility of labour, territorial and occupational, (3) to substitute a fee, impartial and scientific system of recruitment of labour for the vicious system in vogue, (4) provide necessary machinery for the subsequent adop[illegible]

of special security measures by the State and (5) ultimately to promote full employment.

I will now tell you briefly the progress made in our own province up to the month of January 1948 with reference to Resettlement and Employment—

1. Number registered at the Regional Employment Exchange, Madras—208,491.

2. Number of ex-servicemen registered at Employment Exchanges and District Employment Offices—193,056.

3. Number placed in employment by Employment Exchanges—34,675.

Of the people that have been employed by this Employment Exchanges 89 per cent were placed in the Central and Provincial Government vacancies and 11 per cent in private enterprises.

Jai Hind.

Agricultural Planning Commission

A number of interesting topics bearing an agricultural rehabilitation in this country were dealt with by Hon'ble Mr. Doulatram in his speech in the Dominion Parliament recently. He referred among other things to the proposed Agricultural Planning Commission, the Forest Research Institute, the Grow More Food Campaign and Land Reclamation schemes. The Hon'ble Minister said :

" I propose, with the collaboration of the House, to set up some kind of agricultural planning commission which will go to the bottom of the whole question, planning out something scientifically and also something which may be of practical achievement within a limited number of years. I do not know how far this planning commission will be able to achieve the purpose, but I can assure the House that it is the intention of Government to try to solve our fundamental problem of food in a fundamental manner. We are trying to deal with the question of defence, to deal with the question of industrial development; but agricultural development cannot wait longer. There is no doubt that Government have had a variety of schemes left to us by the former Government. I do not know how far they suit us; they will have to be examined. People talk of the self-sufficiency of India as a whole; people speak also of regional self-sufficiency; our country is vast enough, our soil is varied enough and our water resources also are manifold. It may be that it may be a wiser plan to have some kind of regional self-sufficiency on the whole; it might relieve a great deal of the strain on our transport system which may be available for other purposes. And so there are a variety of considerations that I think would have to be taken into account if we want to plan for our country in a proper manner.

Central Expenditure

There has been a complaint that the ...ral Government is spending so much on agriculture ; it has increased its expenditure on agriculture, on forests, on food, etc. I hope that I will not be misunderstood when I say that in my opinion the Centre ought to spend much more on agriculture and much more on plans of production of food. I do not want to tire the House with figures because I am afraid I may have to place some figures in regard to some other points. There are other Federal or Central Governments also in the world. Powers with regard to agriculture and production of food there also lie largely with the provinces. But still with the Centre lies much more power and with the Centre are available far more funds than in our country. I will give you only three other instances of three major Federal institutions.

Here is the U.S.A. The Federal Government spend per head Rs. 80. We spend one anna per head.

The Central Government in Canada spends Rs. 21 on agriculture. We spend one anna.

The United Kingdom, a highly industrialised country, which should be expected to spend far less than India on agriculture, spends Rs. 2 per head on agriculture : we spend one anna per head.

It may be said that the income of those States is larger. I will, therefore, give you other figures.

The U.S.A. spends 3·3 per cent of the Central Budget on agriculture. Canada spends 1·6 per cent. We spend ·75 per cent. I do not think it is possible with the funds at the hands of the Central Government we can make any greater progress in advising, guiding, helping and giving the lead to the provinces as it has been suggested.

We have in the Forest Institute probably the finest Research Institute in the world. Whatever may have been left to us by the foreign Government, let us make the fullest use of it. We are experimenting and making research in that Institute on plywood, composite wood, paper, cellulose, rayon. We want to develop on these lines. We want to intensify research. We want to make it possible for us to reserve steel and iron for industrial and agricultural purposes. Research is going on, following the example of the U.S.A. and other countries to treat our timber, to make it available for telegraph and telephone poles : if possible to make it available for the construction of bridges and for a variety of other uses to which timber is being put in other countries. All this requires additional effort. All this requires additional concentration of research. Surely all this requires a host of men to conduct that research.

Grow More Food Campaign—Practical defficulties

I will read out to you in just three or four minutes a few interesting figures which might explain to the House the difficulties with regard to the grow more food campaign. We had, for instance, for the year 1947-48 a target of 9 lakh acres extra to be put under the plough. We planned a variety of methods—first minor irrigation works which meant wells, surface wells, tube wells, pumping plants, etc. For the implements we asked for only 3 lakh tons of steel and iron for agriculture generally. But all the provinces of India could get only 2 lakh tons instead of 3 lakh tons—and not for agriculture only but for all uses. So that, when we started the grow more food campaign, we found that though for that grow more food campaign we had budgeted for 30,000 tons of steel and iron for all those implements, tubes and pipes, etc., we got only 4,500 tons which is only one-seventh of the quantity on the basis of which the plans were made. Take fertilisers. For 1947-48 we budgeted for 3 lakh tons for the country. But the International Council—which still governs these things—allocated only 50 per cent of the demand to us. With regard to actual receipts that was even half of it. So that, grow more food campaigns dependent on steel, iron and fertilisers had to face these difficulties.

Coming to technical mate... staff, we wanted for these... machines which drill tube... drilling engineers ; we s... one. We wanted thirty... staff. We secured th... Pakistan area and after ... of them went away. ... hardly with any sta... ...illing pu...

29 rigs for drilling wells; we got only 8. We budgeted for 6,000 feet of pipes for these wells; we could not get any because the factory in Lahore was partitioned into Pakistan."

He then referred to Land Reclamation.

"I have got with me a plan for reclaiming 10 lakhs of acres. We have reclaimed already 10,000 acres. Probably by the end of this month we would have reclaimed 10,000 acres in the U.P., but they have no facilities for carrying on further agricultural operations. They have to come to the Centre for help with regard to preliminary cultivation of land and we are going to do the best we can. We have a plan for reclaiming about 20 or 25 lakhs of acres of weeded land in Central India, in Orissa and other parts of India where weeds grow and the land gives only 2 maunds per acre instead of 8. We have plans for reclaiming about 25 lakhs of acres which are not weeded and nothing is grown on them. Now of these 45 lakhs to be reclaimed, probably 5 lakhs—Rs. 50 lakhs is the estimate—of these require oil, tractors, highly technically qualified people, and so on. If we plan on long range, possibly all these needs will be there, but it may be that if we so plan our arrangements that we depend entirely on mechanical cultivation, tractors and oil and other things, we may find that as in the case of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign, 1948, at the end of the year or at the end of the period we have not progressed as much as we should have done. I discussed with the Premier of Madras his plan, and after discussing wells he suggested that 'If the centre could give us Rs. 3 crores a year, I could make Madras insured against famine permanently,' and he suggested that hundreds of years ago our ancestors who ruled the country had built up tanks which stored water. The tanks were built long ago. The population increased. The need of more land to maintain that population increased. More area began to be cultivated from that limited source of supply and the tanks could not reserve water for 3 to 4 years as it used to do formerly. Whatever water there was began to be absorbed and consumed in a shorter period of time. He says 'I do not want iron and steel, I do not want tractors and diesel oil. I want money. My people are here: they are without food because they have no share in the grain because there was no grain: there were no imports: they have neither grain nor income: if prices rise, they have got nothing to depend upon', and his plan is that the Centre should give Madras Rs. 3 crores a year. I am considering this plan and I have asked for details, and that is why I have suggested to the Foodgrains Policy Committee that 'in the second part of your labours which deal with the question of making India self-sufficient, of making India produce as much as she needs, you must give us plans which are practicable. We can have mechanical cultivation to the extent that is necessary and possible, but we must depend upon our other resources and build up plans which we can implement within a reasonable measure of time."

GANDHIAN GEMS

"NON-VIOLENCE is a quality not of the body but of the soul. Once its central meaning sinks into your being, all the rest by itself follows."

* * * * *

"THE hardest metal yields to sufficient heat. Even so must the hardest heart melt before sufficiency of the heat of non-violence. And there is no limit to the capacity of non-violence to generate heat."

* * * * *

"WHAT I want to achieve,—what I have been striving and pining to achieve these thirty years,—is self-realisation, to see God face to face, to attain Moksha. I live and move and have my being in pursuit of this goal. All that I do by way of speaking and writing, and all my ventures in the political field, are directed to this same end."

* * * * *

"I HAVE been practising with scientific precision non-violence and its possibilities for an unbroken period of over fifty years. I have applied it in every walk of life, domestic, institutional, economic and political. I know of no single case in which it has failed. Where it has seemed sometimes to have failed, I have ascribed it to my imperfections. I claim no perfection for myself but I claim to be a passionate seeker after Truth, which is but another name for God. In the course of that search the discovery of non-violence came to me. Its spread is my *life* mission. I have no interest in living except for the prosecution of that mission."

* * * * *

"I AM not a visionary. I claim to be a practical idealist. The religion of Non-violence is not meant merely for the Rishis and Saints. It is meant for the common people as well. Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute. The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might. The dignity of man requires obedience to a higher law—to the strength of the spirit."

* * * * *

"IN my opinion, it is impossible for one to be internationalist without being a nationalist. International- ... is possbile only when nationalism becomes a fact, i.e., when people belonging to different countries have ...anized themselves, and are able to act as one man. It is not nationalism that is evil, it is the narrowness, ...ness, exclusiveness which is the bane of modern nations, which is evil. Each wants to profit at the expense ...rise on, the ruin of the other. Indian nationalism has, I hope, struck a different path. It wants to ... itself or to find full self-expression for the benefit and service of humanity at large. Anyway, there ...rtainty about my patriotism or nationalism. God having cast my lot in the midst of the people of ...ould be untrue to my Maker if I failed to serve them. If I do not know how to serve them I shall ...ow how to serve humanity. And I cannot possibly go wrong so long as I do not harm other nations ...t of serving my country."

—MAHATMA GANDHI.

Special Articles

Food Problems in Asia

By GEORGE MARTIN

[NOTE.—*Bitter experiences of a global war have taught us the importance of self-sufficiency in the matter of food. Even more than two years after the termination of the war the position in the food front is not what it ought to be. More production is the main solution of the problem and this has been stressed by Governments, both Central and Provincial, times out of number. 'Produce or Perish' is the maxim. It is therefore the bounden duty of all producers to spare no pains in contributing their share of efforts to increased production. The Agricultural Department in this Province has initiated a number of measure designed to this end. Agriculturists should avail themselves of these measures. In the present context of things more production is a matter of patriotic duty.*]

The series of meetings on Asiatic food problems held by the Food and Agriculture Organization at Baguio in the Philippines, has again drawn attention to the serious food shortage which still confronts the countries of the Far East and India. Even before World War II, the population of this region numbering now about 1,125 million (including Japan and Korea) lived generally in conditions of extreme poverty by comparison with the people in most countries of western Europe. A large proportion of total family expenditure was spent on food so that there was little left for clothing and other requirements. The high percentage of expenditure on food did not mean, however, that the people were well fed. A high proportion of food expenditure was on cheap cereals and other carbo-hydrates. Not only was the caloric intake low, but there was a lack of balance in the diet and an inadequate consumption of protective food.

Population estimates

The reason for this poverty has been low productivity per head of the population and inefficient organization for increased production. Poverty, in its turn, presents a barrier to the development of new techniques and methods, and not all areas within the region have any substantial volume of natural resources to be developed even with new techniques. In some parts of the region the pre-war situation was tending to becoming worse, especially in relation to food supply, in view of the continued increases in population. Although population estimates for the whole region are unsatisfactory, an annual increase of eight million, as assumed in a recent publication, probably indicates the order of magnitude of the problem. This is the opinion expressed in the Survey of Reconstruction Problems and Needs issued by the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East, which has now been made available.

As agricultural production per head is low, the surplus available to feed those in other occupations is also low, while purchasing power per head for non-agricultural products is trivial. This is why the part of the population engaged in agriculture is high throughout the region, varying from 60 per cent to 80 per cent. Except in Japan and parts of India and China, industrialization is not greatly advanced.

In consequence, foreign trade did not show as great a proportion of total production before World War II as in Europe, but nevertheless, it was of great importance. Much of it was within the region, and this was especially true for rice, the staple food. The basic importance of rice and the nature of the trade in rice gave the region a certain homogenity which is aptly expressed in the designation "the rice economy of Monsoon Asia."

Rice production statistics

About 95 per cent of the world's rice is produced and consumed within Asia. Out of a total annual pre-war world production of 106,600,000 tons, Asia accounted for 102,500,000 tons. International trade in rice is also largely confined to this area, which accounted for 5,300,000 tons out of 7,300,000 tons of rice imports before World War II. The main rice importers were India, China and Malaya.

Distribution difficulties

World War II brought a general economic dislocation and decline of food production in the areas where fighting took place. Damaged irrigation systems and storage facilities, depletion of working animals, shortage of agricultural and milling machinery and parts, and of fertilizers, scarcity of farm labour, damaged and inadequate transport—all these factors served to decrease production and to increase the difficulties of providing equitable and economical distribution of available food. To these difficulties must be added the effects of war and post-war conditions on the morale of producers. In certain areas, insufficient police protection to maintain law and order have deterred farmers from going far from their villages, and cultivation of outlying fields has been considerably curtailed. Political unrest and civil war have not only had an adverse effect on rice production, but have made effective mobilization of supplies and control of distribution far from adequate.

As a result of these factors, exportable supplies of rice are in the current year (July 1947 to June 1948) still less than one-half the quantity that moved in international trade before World War II, and about one-third of stated import requirements of the major rice-consuming countries. There is no simple solution for the world rice problem as the latest Report of the International Emergency Food Council, which reached London recently, indicates. In some countries economic factors are primarily responsible for the slowness in rehabilitating rice production; in other areas the difficulties are more deep-seated, since they have their roots in political and cultural maladjustments. In the British areas in south-east Asia—Ceylon and Malaya—rice production is increasing. Burma is making steady progress in the rehabilitation of rice output; exports are expected to reach nearly 1,200,000 tons in 1948 as compared with 865,000 tons in 1947. (This compares with 2,950,000 tons before World War II.) The current crop in India and Pakistan is expected to be [illegible]ower than the estimated 28 mill[illegible]s produced in 1946-47.

Sterling countri[illegible]

The rice shortage incre[illegible] on the world supplies [illegible] Thus India (incl[illegible] received over two milli[illegible] in 1946-47 whereas [illegible] War II she was a net [illegible]

requirements of the sterling countries in Asia constitute a further strain on Britain's dollar reserves, which are the reserves of the whole sterling area. The special dollar needs of India and Pakistan were recognized in the recently concluded financial agreements.

Dislocation of agricultural production in Asia also affects the world's fat supplies. In India the over-all food situation is likely to remain so acute that import requirements of fats will probably well exceed such export supplies as can be made available this year. It is doubtful whether any important volume of oil-seeds will be available from China in general and from Manchuria in particular. Only in the Philippines has production (of copra) been fully restored, although in Ceylon, too, progress has been made in the rehabilitation of the copra industry.

The most important need for the increase of Asia's rice crops is the provision of more fertilizers, especially nitrogen. In view of the continuing world shortage of nitrogen supplies, it is difficult to say at present where any additional nitrogen will be found for this purpose.

A Peep into the Museum

(The Zoological Galleries)

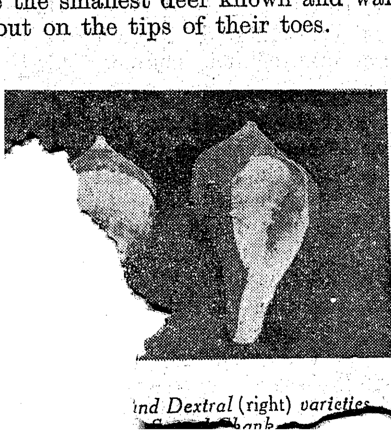
(Part II)

By S. T. SATYAMURTI, M.A., F.Z.S.

[NOTE.—*The first part of the article appeared in the* Madras Information, *dated 1st April 1948.*]

Mammal's gallery

Adjacent to the Bird gallery of the Museum is the equally large Mammalian gallery, in the centre of which stands a huge and predominating skeleton of a male Indian elephant displaying its enormous tusks in their full splendour. Many of the better known examples of South Indian mammals may be seen exhibited in this gallery. They include, among others, many carnivorous animals such as the leopard, sloth bear, hyaena, wild dog, jungle cat, mongooses, civet cats, otters and ratels, rodents or gnawing animals such as the various types of giant squirrels from Malabar and Bengal, the hare and the porcupine, and a variety of herbivorous animals such as the antelope, spotted deer, Nilgiri wild goat and the little chevrotain or mouse deer, which are peculiar in that they are the smallest deer known and walk about on the tips of their toes.



ind Dextral (right) *varieties* ... *hank*

Marine mammals are represented in this gallery by specimens of the Elliot's dolphin and the Dugong or sea cow, both of which are elongated and fish-like in appearance, with a flattened tail fin. Though they superficially resemble fishes, their internal structure readily betray their position among the mammals. The dolphin is a comparatively small animal belonging to the whole family, and is characterized by the habit of leaping over the waves of the sea in groups known as 'schools'. It has a narrow pointed snout equipped with a series of simple, uniformly developed, conical teeth, which are admirably adapted for a fish-eating mode of life. The Dugong, on the other hand, is a purely herbivorous marine mammal, frequenting rocky shores and browsing on sea weeds. When it raises its head and about half of its body erect above the surface, and happens to hold a young one between its paddle-like flippers, its appearance, to a distant observer, is so misleadingly human, that it has been surmised that the Dugong might have given rise to the myth of the marmaid!

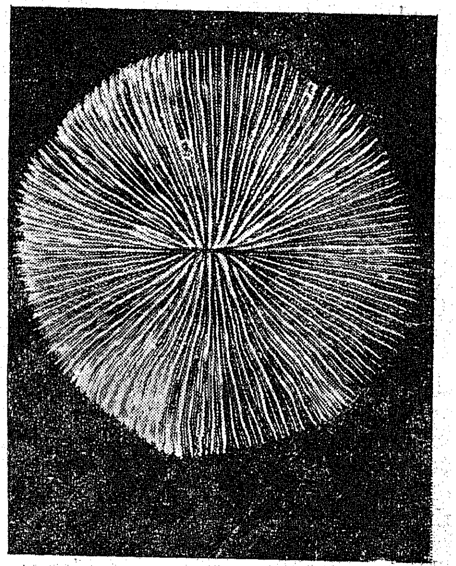
There are also a few other notable examples of local mammals in this gallery, which are worth mentioning. The scaly ant-eater, with its peculiarly narrowed snout and invincible armature of plate-like scales, the little Loris (Tam. *thevangu*), with its round, owl-like countenance and slender limbs, a group of the large Indian fruit bats hanging by their claws from a portion of a branched tree, and the various species of South Indian monkeys such as the Bonnet monkey and the Malabar and Nilgiri langurs, or Hanuman monkeys with their enormously long tails, and the lion-tailed monkey with a bushy mane around its neck are all exhibits of considerable interest and add much to the excitement which often accompanies a peep into this gallery.

If, after completing his survey of the mammal gallery, the visitor should retrace his steps to the staircase at the extreme right of the reptile gallery and ascend to the next floor, he would find himself transported to a world of creatures totally different from what he has been viewing so far in the galleries on the ground floor. The halls on the first floor are devoted to the exhibition of the more lowly organized animals such as animals without a backbone and fishes which rank lowest among the backboned creatures.

The first of the series of three halls on this floor contains exhibits relating to the lowest members of the animal kingdom, such as the minute one-called animals including disease-producing germs such as the malarial parasite, the hydroids, or plant-like marine animals, the jelly fishes, corals, and various kinds of marine, land and parasitic worms. Among these, however, it is the large and varied collection of corals that figures most prominently in this gallery and therefore deserve special mention.

Corals

Coral looks like a stone and appears to grow like a plant, and yet it is of animal origin. A single branch of



The Mushroom Coral.

living coral is made up of a very large number of very small marine animals called 'polyps' which form a sort of closely aggregated colony. The form and colour of colonies of coral animals differ widely, depending on the species. Most of the popular names of the various species of coral are derived from either the form or colour of the colonies, some of the most familiar being the mushroom coral, stag-horn coral, star coral, brain stone, sea fan and organ-pipe coral. Fine examples of all these varieties of coral, including a sample of the precious coral of commerce from which beads and cameos are manufactured, are placed on exhibition in this gallery.

Sea Shells

In the large, roomy gallery adjoining the coral room are exhibited several typical local representatives of all the other groups of invertebrate animals (i.e., animals without a backbone), above the level of the worms. At the entrance to the gallery may be seen a massive specimen of the enormous sea shell known as the giant clam. It is one of the largest bivalve shells known, and occurs at the bottom of the ocean in tropical regions. The animal inhabiting this shell possesses immense muscular strength; it is stated that a man's hand or foot, when once caught in the grip of their gaping valves, can scarcely be withdrawn. The shells exhibited weigh more than thirty pounds.

A rich variety of sea shells of divers colours and shapes adorn the cases along the wall on the side of the gallery adjoining the specimen of the giant clam. The group of specimens illustrating the formation of pearls in the pearl oyster, and specimens of the normal as well as the extremely rare and venerated sinistral (or *valamburi*) variety of the sacred chank together with the horny egg capsule of this species and the various ornamental products such as rings and bangles manufactured from this species—all contribute admirably to the interest which our shell gallery offers to the visitor.

Of the rest of the exhibits in this gallery, the members of the jointed-limbed group of animals such as insects, spiders, prawns and crabs constitute by far the vast majority. The commercial importance of the silk moth and the industry which has originated from it is well brought home to the visitor by the instructive display of the wide variety of silk cocoons and the samples of silks which have been reeled from them at the various silk filatures in the Madras Presidency. brightly coloured and elaborately signed carpet made entirely of silk reeled from Mulberry silk moth cocoons in Tanjore is also exhibited in this gallery. Various interesting features relating to the natural history of insects are instructively illustrated by a special introductory series of exhibits. They serve to explain to the visitor the evolutionary sequence of the various orders of insects, the outstanding sex differences in certain groups of insects, the variations in the wing characters of various insects and the adaptations of certain insects to an aquatic mode of life. Besides, there are a number of striking examples of insect 'homes' such as the termitarium, or white ant's nest, the tree ant's nest, the hive of the honey bee and the papery nests of different species of wasps.

Among the group of exhibits representing the spiders, scorpions and their allies, the attention of the visitor will be specially attracted by the large, highly venomous, hairy spider bearing bright metallic spots (Tam. *Joramandalam*), the trap door spider with its ingenious dwelling, the various large-sized scorpions including a double-tailed freak, and the immense king crab or horse shoe crab which, in reality, is not a crab at all but more allied to the spiders and scorpions. This is a curious marine animal whose body is made up of a large rounded, partially flattened and dome shaped forepart and a long, attenuated tail-like spine, and lives on the sandy bottom of the sea. The lobsters and prawns in some of the wall cases in this gallery will also interest the visitor considerably by reason of their large size. Before leaving this gallery, the visitor should not miss seeing the small display of star fishes, brittle stars, sea lilies, sea urchins and sea cucumbers contained in a separate group of cases against the wall at one end of the gallery. These are all marine animals, built on a characteristic five-radiate plan, and, except for the sea cucumbers, are all provided with a hard calcareous outer skeleton composed of numerous plates which are fused together and often bear strong spines. The sea cucumbers (so called on account of their cucumber-like shape), however, have a soft leathery skin, and are remarkable for their habit of casting out their entire internal viscera when irritated, and regenerating them all anew! Some species of the sea cucumber are commercially important as they are used in the preparation of a kind of soup known as *trepang* or *beche-de-mer*.

Gallery of Fishes

Finally, on leaving this gallery, the visitor will enter the a[illegible] namely, the gallery of fishes. Immediately on entering this hall, his attention will be drawn to a huge specimen of a fish suspended from the ceiling. This is a specimen of the Whale Shark—the largest of all living species of fish. The specimen exhibited measures more than twenty feet in length. It has been recorded both in the east and west coasts of the Indian Peninsula, but it is said to be only a seasonal visitor to these coasts, having their permanent homes in the Malay Archipelagoes. It has an extremely wide, gaping mouth, and is beautifully marked with round white spots all over the body in the living condition. Far from being a ferocious man-eater, as its immense size would readily lead us to believe, the Whale Shark appears to be perfectly harmless to man, and feeds on shrimps and other minute marine planktonic organisms. A giant Perch fish exhibited directly beneath this suspended shark is also remarkable for its size, and is reputed to be one of the largest of bony fishes recorded from the Indian waters.

Other large specimens of fishes may also be seen mounted on the walls in this gallery. Of these Tiger Shark and Rayner's Shark are perhaps the most formidable and have been known to attack sea bathers in the neighbourhood of the Madras shore. The Saw-fish and the Sword-fish which have, in their "saw" and "sword" remarkably powerful offensive weapons, also rank among the more impressive exhibits in this gallery. Besides these, all the common Indian species of the various cartilaginous fishes such as sharks, rays and skates, as well as bony fishes such as perches, eels, catfishes and a host of others, including game fishes such as the Mahseer, are all exhibited in this gallery in a fairly complete systematic series. Some of the principle edible fishes such as the pomfrets, seers and mullets found in the Madras waters, and various samples of oils, manures and isinglass derived from fishes are specially exhibited in a separate series on account of their commercial importance.

The visitor has now completed hi[illegible] tour around the various z[illegible] galleries of the Museum, and i[illegible] that the little glimpses into [illegible] fold treasures of Nature wh[illegible] have gained through th[illegible] serve to awaken in h[illegible] understanding of th[illegible] beauties that abound [illegible] realm of Natural Hist[illegible] dwindle into a mere ever[illegible] en[illegible]

Prohibition News Letter

The following is a brief summary of the reports on the ameliorative activities in the prohibition districts :—

Salem.—In the Rural Uplift School at Hosur the candidates are given instructions in a number of subjects like rural uplift, health, sanitation, co-operation, cattle care, etc. Volley ball is getting popular in the district. One village sangam organized a volley ball tournament in which 12 teams competed. The finals were conducted on 29th February and silver cups were presented to the winners. A cattle show was held in another village on the 10th March under the auspices of the Veterinary Department and the District Board, Salem. There was a large number of exhibits of all classes of livestock. In all 45 prizes were awarded to winners.

Bellary.—Three village committees were formed in the early part of March. Firka tournaments were also conducted during the period. A cattle show was held and prizes were awarded for the best animals. Dramas were staged in a number of villages under the guidance of the ameliorative staff. A radio set was installed in one village. A thrift campaign was launched and 20 hundi boxes were distributed.

Cuddapah.—Divisional tournaments took palce during the early part of March. Several teams competed and prizes were distributed to the winners. A Co-operative Egg Production Society was organized at Proddatur as well as a Co-operative Building Society. The villagers showed great enthusiasm. They also asked for 100 hundi boxes. The public in one place have resolved to build a community centre with a reading room, library, park, radio and playgrounds at a cost of Rs. 15,000. They have agreed to collect half the amount from the villagers. So far Rs. 3,000 have been collected.

Trichinopoly.—During the early [illegible] March a film was exhibited in [illegible] villages and many including [illegible]ts and ladies attended the [illegible] [o]n the 1st March the second [illegible]ft School for the district [illegible] There were speeches on [illegible] side of rural uplift [illegible]

[illegible]*ur.*—Firka tournaments [illegible]ted on the 24th and 25th [illegible] two villages. Several was presented to winners in tug-of-war. A notable fact was that a silver chain was won as a prize by a woman for pounding paddy. A cattle fair and agricultural exhibition were held during a festival. Prizes were distributed for the best exhibits in the shape of agricultural implements. A Labour Co-operative Society was formed in one place. A radio set was installed in another place. A new building for the Board Elementary School and a reading room and library were opened in one village. The Betterment Committee of the place collected Rs. 2,000 for this construction. The Special Development Officer suggested the running of a Night School and this was agreed to. There was also a cattle fair in Kalyandrug taluk. An agricultural exhibition was arranged in this connexion which was largely attended. A Taluk Tournament was also conducted. Dramas were staged and prizes were distributed on the final day in the shape of useful agricultural implements. Prizes were also given for the best exhibits in agriculture and handicrafts. A Labour contract Society for ex-tappers was given a contract for repairing a channel. A co-operative society was also organized for ex-addicts. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies organized another society for agricultural improvement.

Chittoor.—Eighteen Rural Recreational Clubs and 18 grama sangams were organized by the ameliorative staff in Chandragiri Division during the early part of March. Rural games were held as usual in all the divisions in the district. At another place there was keen competition between those who participated especially for Pandara Bajana, Kolattam and folk dance. In another village matches were also played in two places in which several villages took part. There were as usual bajanas and folk dances. The ballad singer performed harikathas in important places. Street Cleaning Drive was launched in one village and Thrift Day celebrations were conducted in several places. Several hundi boxes were also distributed. In the exhibition in Punganur taluk the Agricultural, Veterinary, Fisheries and other departments took an active part. Bhajanas were performed in all the divisions in the district. A Harijan in one village [illegible]ted a site for a Bhajana Madam. The villagers in two places laid out approach-roads. Dramas were also staged during March.

The Nilgiris.—The closing function in connextion with the Rural Uplift School at Coonoor was celebrated on 29th February. There was also an exhibition in that connection. Products from the Forest, Agricultural, Veterinary and Co-operative departments were exhibited. One local cinema company gave a benefit performance in aid of the rural uplift fund.

Madura.—Two Milk Supply Societies for the benefit of ex-addicts and others were registered during the early part of March. Hundi boxes were distributed to the ex-tappers of the Jaggery Manufacturers' Society. A Co-operative Jaggery Society was formed during the second week of March and 12 licences were issued to ex-tappers. The jaggery produced by the Co-operative Society was pooled together and succesfully sold in auction. Bajanas and harikathas were performed in some villages of Dindigul taluk.

North Arcot.—Korai Mat Weaving industry was introduced in one village on the 3rd of March. Mat looms were distributed to 13 Harijan women and they were exhorted to avail themselves of the free supply of looms, free tuition and free supply of raw materials. A programme of rural games, bhajana, music, etc., was gone through in this connexion. Harijan women showed keen enthusiasm in taking advantage of the new scheme.

Kurnool.—A new tea stall was opened in one village. Dramas were also enacted. Tournaments and music performance were the other important events during the early part of March. An ex-addict saved Rs. 100 through abstaining from drink. Another man saved Rs. 30; yet another Rs. 100; A fourth ex-addict purchased two buffaloes costing Rs. 150 in addition to saving Rs. 200. There was also a cattle show and this was opened by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. The show was largely attended. There was also a Cottage Industries Exhibition in connexion with the Sivarathri festival. Prizes were distributed for the best exhibits.

Tanjore.—A public library was declared open on the 29th February under the auspices of a grama sangam. One Rural Recreation Club and two Village Betterment Committees were organized during the early part of March in one taluk. In Mannargudi Division a Mat-Weaving Co-operative Society was started with 22 ex-tappers as members. Twenty-five hundi

were distributed to ex-addicts. Thrift Day celebrations were conducted in one place.

Malabar.—During the early part of March a Coconut Jaggery Producers' Society in Chirakkal taluk started work. The total number of societies in the district now is 51.

South Kanara.—The Special Development Officer organized a Cattle Breeding Co-operative Society in Kasargode taluk.

Coimbatore.—There were indigenous games as usual. A Firka Tournament was held in Pollachi Division in which several teams took part. Competitions in Chedugudu, tug-of-war, bhajana, volley ball, stick play, etc., were held. Grama sangams continued to do useful work. One grama sangam planted 29 trees in the early part of March. Another grama sangam is constructing a bajana mandiram.

Guntur.—A one-day cattle show was arranged in one village on the 7th of March by the Veterinary Department. The prizes distributed were valued at Rs. 300. There were also indigenous sports and entertainments.

Delhi Diary

Indian Industries

Comprehensive data on the state of India's industrial production, plans undertaken by the Government of India to develop them and the considered views of industrialists, labour leaders and Governments on industry in general and a number of specific problems are brought out in a two-volume report of the recent Industries Conference published by the Ministry of Industry and Supply. The first of the two volumes contains data, which though not complete in all respects, may still be considered the best available at the moment, especially in the absence of a regular organization for the collection of industrial statistics. The second volume may serve as a symposium of expert opinion on a number of general and specific problems of production, supply, transport and labour.

The Agenda and Notes prepared for the Conference, printed in the first booklet indicate the Government's general plans of industrial production and the special problems of shortages, personnel, transport difficulties, etc., which confront them. This section of the volume contains facts and figures relating to 32 industries, which have to be presently worked to existing capacity as the first phase of industrial planning, while data relating to long-term development of 31 industries are given in a series of summaries, most of them being based on the reports lately submitted by Industrial Panels appointed by the Government of India.

* * *

National Ill-health

was a tragedy too deep for tears today India stood lowest in the whole world in the domain of health, said Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Health Minister, in her presidential address delivered at the Lady Hardinge Medical College founders' celebrations today.

Your leaders, the Health Minister said, had brought you freedom. Perhaps it was only natural that political freedom when it came should bring in its wake an upheaval. As if the terrible happenings here and elsewhere were not enough they were called upon to bear yet another grevious calamity under whose dark shadow they still lingered and groped for light. Mahatma Gandhi, however, could not be killed by the foul assassin's bullet. The manner of his passing was the hour of his greatest triumph. He had joined the ranks of the great immortals and his soul shone for ever and would continue to beackon her to rise to the heights to which he had longed for India to rise.

* * *

Industrial Progress to be quickened

The Standing Finance Committee approved in principle a scheme to strengthen existing Engineering and Technological Institutions with a view to improving and expanding the facilities for technical education and of providing more technicians for the industrial progress of the country. After certain details have been worked out, grants for 1947–48 will be made by the Central Government.

Among the Institutions to benefit are the Jadavpur Engineering College, V.J.T.I. Bombay; various technological Colleges of Banares Hindu University; Department of Applied Ph[illegible] and Radio Electronics, Calcutta University; Jaipur Vikram Deo College, Andhra University; Alagappa Chettiar College, Madras.

The Committee also approved a yearly contribution of Rs. 38 lakhs by the Central Government towards operation of the Workmen's Compensation Insurance scheme, the grants to continue for five years.

This scheme provides for certain benefits to persons employed in factories in cases of sickness, maternity cases and employment injury. It is mainly financed by contributions from employers and workers, but the Government of India has agreed to make a grant equivalent to two-thirds of the cost of administration of the scheme, excluding cost of benefits to be provid d.

A non-recurring grant of Rs. 5 lakhs and a recurring grant of about Rs. 40,000 a year were sanctioned for the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan.

Founded in 1910, this Society's main object is to promote the spread of Hindi in Devanagari characters and to develop the language itself. It is also engaged in the production of high class Hindi literature.

The Sammelan has its own building at Allahabad, but with the expansion of its activities more accommodation is needed in that city. Also, it is proposed to establish a cultural centre at Delhi.

* * *

Railway Board's Complaints Section

Over 16,000 complaints were dealt with by the Railway Administrations during the period October 1946 to December 1947 and in the Railway Board Office itself 2,341 complaints were received and dealt with by the Complaints section. Most of the cases have been satisfactorily closed.

This was revealed in the Dominion Parliament by Hon'ble Dr. John Matthai, Minister for Railways. Indivi- with Rail way Administration also dealt dual complaints. The number dealt with by M. & S.M. Railway is 1,2[illegible] and that by S.I. Railway 502.

* * *

Social Workers' Conf[illegible]

Prominent social worker[illegible] and representatives of a[illegible] social service and wel[illegible]tions met recently at [illegible] College under the pres[illegible] Mr. A. V. Thakker and [illegible] organize a conference of [illegible]

The Conference would be the provincial branch of the All-India Conference of Social Work which has its headquarters in Bombay.

Although there seemed to be no dearth of social service agencies in the country, very little co-ordinated work had been done. It was precisely because these agencies had been allowed to grow up and multiply without any definite plan, guidance or co-ordination that to-day instead of any decrease the country was witnessing an increase in destitution, disease, crime, unemployment and social vice. The remedy then seemed to be not to confine oneself to isolated batch work but to concentrate on preventive activities in fighting the giants of poverty, disease, squalor, illiteracy, neglect and unemployment.

In this task of co-ordination of course, the State would have to play an important and leading role. A free India must solve these problems permanently by the creation of a Ministry of Social Welfare.

Other Provinces—Highlights

Grants for Backward Classes' Uplift in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has sanctioned the payment of additional recurring grants of Rs. 20,800 to the voluntary agencies and associations like the Harijan Sewak Sanghs, etc., working for the amelioration of the conditions of the Backward Classes.

* * *

Police Reorganization in U.P.

The Police Reorganization Committee has now completed its work and submitted its report to the Government.

The Committee, it is gathered, has discussed the question of responsibility for law and order. At present the responsibility rests on the district magistrates although the police has primarily to maintain it. Although the committee realized that the dual responsibility resulted in friction between the magistracy and the police, it was considered unwise to put the police in sole charge of law and order. Certain witnesses suggested placing the police under local bodies, as in Great Britain, but the proposal was not acceptable. The Committee has, it is understood, recommended that more powers to deal with the law and order question should be given to the police [illegible] the magistrates would be within [illegible] rights to interfere if they felt that a case was [illegible]ing mishandled.

Sp[illegible]al investigating squads are [illegible]ood to have been recommended [illegible] areas, while in cities with a [illegible]n of over one lakh the sepa[illegible]he investigation branch from [illegible]ward is suggested. There [illegible]ecial investigation squads [illegible]estigation of serious and [illegible]es at the headquarters [illegible]ict. The crime record [illegible]h district will be linked [illegible]vincial crime info[illegible]tion

Education in West Punjab

The West Punjab Government is contemplating to revise the system of education in vernacular schools in the Province. The ideal, set before the Government, is that a vernacular school should become the nucleus of village life and a powerful vehicle of social emancipation, economic improvement and agricultural development. The vernacular education will have under the revised scheme, an essentially agricultural and vocational bias. Apart from instruction in Three R's, lessons will be imparted in Civics, Co-operation, Hygiene, improved methods of agriculture and programme of rural uplift.

The reformed system will be broad-based on community work, more on the actual observation of facts and things, than on more reading and cramming of a few fixed text-books.

* * *

Milk Production in West Punjab

The number of dairies and creameries in West Punjab will shortly be raised to 30. This step is expected to go a long way in meeting the shortage of 11,363,703 mds. of milk per annum in the Province.

The total milk requirements of the Province, at the average rate of 8 ounces per capita per day, which is considered essential for the maintenance of minimum health conditions for a population of 12,878,823, are roughly estimated at 29,379,814 maunds.

* * *

Bombay Rural Development Board

The Bombay Government have reconstituted the Provincial Rural Development Board. The main functions of the Board are to advise the Govern[illegible] on the general principles and policy of rural development and cognate matters and such other matters as may be referred to it; to advise the Government on various Post-war Reconstruction and other rural development Schemes; to prepare schemes on its own initiative and submit them to the Government for consideration; and to assist the Government in implementing and co-ordinating these schemes and to review their progress from time to time.

With a view to accelerating the working of the Board and to deal with matters pertaining to it as they arise from day to day, the Board will be assisted by six sub-committees.

* * *

Bombay Scholarships

Sanction has been accorded to the institution of fifty additional sets of stipends for the Backward Classes—thirty sets tenable for two years for men and twenty sets tenable for three years for women, in Non-Government Primary Training Institutions in the Province, as a post-war reconstruction measure.

* * *

New Labour and Housing Department in Bombay

The Government of Bombay has formed a new Department in the Secretariat to deal with matters pertaining to Labour and Housing (Construction).

* * *

Potato Competition in United Provinces.

It has been decided to hold a potato competition in connexion with the Grow More Food Campaign. The grower who produces the maximum yield per acre from disease-free seed purchased from the Agriculture department will be awarded a silver cup as first prize. Government have under consideration the award of second [illegible] third prizes also.

Fuel Problem in West Punjab

"The outturn of firewood from Government forests is only a small fraction of the total requirements of the country and there is no hope of improving the position without drastic measures", stated the Chief Conservator of Forests, West Punjab, in the cousre of a report embodying recommendations for afforestation in the rural areas of West Punjab.

Of the 8 million acres of private and crown waste land, 5 million acres are recommended for afforestation by villagers themselves, to yield nearly 40 million maunds of fuel every year.

The total area thus afforested will be 7·69 million acres, representing 20·7 per cent of the total area of the West Punjab. The entire estimated outturn from all these sources will be available after about 20 years, but there will be an appreciable increase of supplies in five to ten years' time.

* * *

Road Development in West Punjab

In view of the commercial future of the Province, feeder and village roads are receiving special attention under the Five-year Road-building Plan of the Government. The plan envisages the construction of 1,535 miles of arterial and 1,856 miles of minor and village roads during the next three years.

* * *

Town-Planning in West Punjab

In order to organize town-planning and to meet the increasing house requirements, the West Punjab Government has opened the office of the Provincial Town Planner.

The office will draw up schemes and layouts for different parts of the Province which the local authorities will adopt, after necessary modifications, as their own. Planning for rural areas, directing the course of development along major highways, initiating plans and advising on acquisition of land for the improvement trusts at Lahore, Sialkot, Multan and Rawalpindi—all these responsibilities will fall within the scope of the new planning authority.

* * *

Anti-Corruption Drive in West Bengal

It is learnt that about 60 cases of alleged corruption among Government servants in West Bengal are under investigation by the Anti-Curruption [Depa]rtment. They involve Deputy Magistrates, Subdivisional Officers, Superintendents of Police, Police Inspectors and Constables, Officers of the Civil Supplies and Rationing Departments, and clerks in various Government offices.

* * *

Bihar Governor's Exhortation

"We must be prepared to do everything to uphold the rule of law and respect for the Constituted Authority. That alone will help the new democracy to create conditions under which Ram Rajya which Mahatma Gandi of hallowed memory was always dreaming of, can be established"—So said His Excellency Shri Madho Shrihari Aney, replying to the addresses presented to him by the members of the Matihari Municipality and the District Board of Champaran. He added:—"You are living under the Government run by your chosen representatives and trusted leaders. The methods like civil disobedience, passive resistance, strikes, deadlocks, etc., which were used effectively and rightly by you against the old Government are entirely out of use in the present order. I will urge on you all therefore to try in your way to create respect for the laws and regulations promulgated by the existing Government".

* * *

Basic Education Plan for Delhi Province

It has been decided to implement the Basic Education Scheme in Delhi Province with effect from July 1, 1948. In the first year all children aged six and seven in the rural areas of the Province will be given free and compulsory primary education. In the following years the scheme will be applied to the successive age groups.

It is proposed to open about 150 new schools during the next year to put this scheme into effect. The first fifty schools will be opened next July. It is hoped that the experience gained in the implementation of this scheme in Delhi Province will prove useful to other Provinces in adopting similar schemes.

* * *

Agricultural Credit in Bombay

The recommendation of the Agricultural Credit Organization Committee that it is not necessary to establish an Agricultural Credit Corporation and that the co-operative agencies can carry out its work, has been accepted by the Government of Bombay.

Efficiency drive in U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces have prescribed compulsory retirement for inefficient officers. An elaborate set of procedural rules have been drawn up which are to be observed before an officer is decided to be retired.

* * *

New Taxation in West Punjab

The budget of the West Punjab Government for the year 1948–49 has forecast a deficit of 673 lakhs. The deficit is sought to be covered partially by a number of new taxation measures. These are mainly (1) tax on agricultural income, (2) increase in Urban Immovable Property Tax, (3) doubling of copying fees in courts and Revenue record rooms, (4) increase in tobacco licence fees, (5) increase in entertainment duty, (6) tax on consumption of electricity and (7) 25 per cent increase in the rate of stamp charges both judicial and non-judicial. The new taxes are expected to yield roughly 283 lakhs of rupees.

* * *

Prohibition in Bombay

The prohibition programme in Bombay Province got a good boost recently when Governor Maharaj Singh inaugurated recently a new publicity drive against the drink evil.

A crowd of several thousands had gathered to hear the Governor who illustrated his talk in simple Hindustani by calling up an addict to the platform to take the pledge of his own free will not to touch the bottle again. The Governor also called up a police inspector and asked him which of all the offences he had to deal with he found the most disgusting. Unhesitatingly, the police-man replied: "Drinking, Sir!"

Mr. G. D. Vartak, Minister for Local Self-Government and Chairman of the Prohibition Board's Propaganda and Publicity Committee, drew rounds of applause when he said that one of the greatest services which we could render to the memory of Mahatma [illegible] would be to abjure the drink ha[bit].

* * *

Live-stock Improve[ment] in Bihar

The Government of B[ihar] ... pared a few schemes ... improvement and for de... problem of live-stock pro... schemes formulated incl...

establishment of a model "Goshala" on Wardha lines, maintenance of 400 bulls in key villages, grading up village cattle with Tharpakar bulls, establishment of a Bachaur breed cattle farm, and establishment of a wool shearing and grading centre. It has also been decided to start a training class for imparting suitable training to the Goushala workers. Other schemes proposed in this connection are the establishment of a poultry farm sheep and goat breeding farm, training of ex-servicemen as stockmen training of personnel in India and abroad and appointment of Dairy Development Officers.

* * *

Physical Culture in U.P.

The Government of the United Provinces have decided to start a scheme of physical culture in the Province, which in the first instance, will be started at Lucknow. People ranging from the age of 12 to 40 years will be admitted to different training centres. They will be taught punctuality, clean habits, physical exercises and rhythmic movements, etc. It is also proposed to supply milk at reduced rates to the trainees after their continued association with centres for a specified period of time.

* * *

U.P's. Blueprint for Labour Welfare

Mr. Sampurnanand, Minister for Labour, placed before the provincial Assembly Government's blueprint for improving the conditions of industrial and agricultural workers in the Province. The high lights of the blueprint are, the setting up of new conciliation and adjudication bodies, appiontment of Works' Committees consisting of representatives of employers and employees, to settle disputes arising out of the normal working of the industries and expansion of labour welfare activities.

* * *

Prohibition magazine in Bombay

The Bombay Provincial Prohibition Board will shortly bring out a monthly magazine "Sanjeevan" (or the New Life), edited by Prof. J. C. Daruvala. The magazine is priced at eight annas a copy.

* * *

Technical Education in Bombay

In order to provide for more efficient control and development of technical and industrial education in the Province, the Government have decided to set up a special organization with effect from the next financial year with headquarters in Bombay. This organization will ultimately form part of the Directorate of Public Instruction.

* * *

Bombay Advisory Board for Libraries

It is proposed to establish in Bombay a Central Advisory Board for Libraries for the proper and efficient supervision and inspection of and the provision of guidance to the libraries in the Province of Bombay.

The term of office of the Central Board will be for three years.

It is proposed to establish three Regional Advisory Boards for the libraries for the proper and efficient supervision of libraries in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnatak.

* * *

Prohibition—A Success in Central Province

A Government resolution on the progress made in respect of prohibition in the Central Province and Berar during 1946 states that prohibition had improved the moral, physical, social and economic condition of ex-addicts.

In 1938, prohibition was made effective for the first time in an area of 9,333 square miles. On October 1, 1946, 39,643 square miles, which are a little less than half of the area of the Province had been brought under the prohibition scheme.

The Province lost Rs. 23 lakhs on account of the introduction of prohibition. The number of offences under the prohibition Act rose from 1,859 to 2,927, the increase being chiefly due to the extension of the area under prohibition. Illicit distillation of liquor topped the list of offences and the number of cases under this head increased from 4,423 to 4,738. More opium was smuggled into the Province from the Central India States and 186 smugglers were arrested. The total amount of opium seized was 19,410 tolas.

Clippings from Gandhiji's Writings

The Evil of Drink

[It has been said by [illegible] than one top rank leader in this [illegible]cy that the best way to perpetu[illegible]te the [illegible] of Gandhiji is to follow his [illegible] During a perio[illegible] over [illegible]s of self denyin[illegible] [illegible]ice to [illegible]try, Gandhiji has given [illegible] almost all matters which [illegible]to the interest of the [illegible]n. To study them and [illegible]n into action is the [illegible] of every true lover [illegible]

[illegible] reproduced his [illegible]e evils of drink. No [illegible]ovince will become completely dry shortly but all the same, critics continue to be vociferous in attacking prohibition as an unwanted or premature affair. To such of those who think that way this article will prove an eye-opener.]

"You will not be deceived by the specious argument that India must not be made sober by compulsion, and that those who wish to drink must have facilities provided for them. The State does not cater for the vices of its people. We do not regulate or license houses of ill-fame. We do not provide facilities for thieves to indulge their propensity for thieving. I hold drink to be more damnable than thieving and perhaps even prostitution. Is it not often the parent of both ?

Drink is more a disease than a vice. I know scores of men who would gladly leave off drink if they could. I know some who have asked that the temptation might be put away from them. In spite of the temptation having been put away at their instance, I have known them to steal drink. I do not, therefore, think that it was wrong to have removed the temptation. Diseased persons have got to be helped against themselves.

Having identified myself with labour, I know what ruin drink has brought to the homes of labourers given to drink. I know that they will not touch

liquor if it was not within easy reach. We have contemporaneous evidence that drinkers themselves are in many cases asking for prohibition.

The drink habit destroys the soul of man and tends to turn him into a beast, incapable of distinguishing between wife, mother and sister. I have seen men who forget this distinction under the influence of liquor.

The drink and the drug evil is in many respects infinitely worse than the evil caused by malaria and the like; for, whilst the latter only injure the body the former saps both body and soul.

I would rather have India reduced to a state of pauperism than have thousands of drunkards in our midst. I would rather have India without education if that is the price to be paid for making it dry.

Nothing but ruin stares a nation in the face that is prey to the drink habit. History records that empires have been destroyed through that habit. We have it in India that the great community to which Shri Krishna belonged was ruined by that habit. This monstrous evil was undoubtedly one of the contributory factors in the fall of Rome.

In no part of the world is prohibition as easy to carry out as in India, for with us it is only a minority that drinks. Drinking is generally considered disreputable. And there are millions, I believe, who have never known what drink is."

THE MIGHT OF NON-VIOLENCE

"NON-VIOLENCE in its dynamic condition means conscious suffering. It does not mean meek submission to the will of the evil-doer, but it means the putting of one's whole soul against the will of the tyrant. Working under this law of our being, it is possible for a single individual to defy the whole might of an unjust empire to save his honour, his religion, his soul and lay the foundation for that empire's fall or its regeneration."

* * * * *

"THE spirit of non-violence necessarily leads to humility, Non-violence means reliance on God."

* * * * *

"INDIA'S past training for ages, I mean the training of the masses, has been against violence. Human nature in India has advanced so far that the doctrine of Non-violence is more natural for the people at large than that of violence."

* * * * *

"THE only virtue I want to claim is Truth and Non-violence. I lay no claim to superhuman powers. I want none. I wear the same corruptible flesh that the weakest of my fellow beings wear, and am therefore as liable to err as any."

* * * * *

"MY interest in India's freedom will cease if she adopts violent means, for their fruit will be not freedom but slavery in disguise."

* * * * *

"VIOLENT means will give violent Swaraj. That would be a menace to the world and to India herself."

* * * * *

"MY religion is based on Truth and Non-violence. Truth is my God. Non-violence is the means of realising Him."

* * * * *

"AHIMSA and Satya are as my two lungs. I cannot live without them."

* * * * *

"NON-VIOLENCE and cowardice are contradictory terms. Non-violence is the greatest virtue, cowardice the greatest vice. Non-violence springs from love, cowardice from hate."

* * * * *

"NON-VIOLENCE always suffers, cowardice would always inflict suffering. Perfect non-violence is the highest bravery. Non-violent conduct is never demoralising, cowardice always is."

* * * * *

"NON-VIOLENCE cannot be taught to a person who fears to die and has no pow[illegible] of resistance."

* * * * *

"NON-VIOLENCE is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mig[illegible] the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man. Destruction is not the law [illegible]ans. Man lives freely only by his readiness to die, if need be, at the hands of his brother, never by ki[illegible]g him. Every murder or other injury, no matter for what cause, committed or inflicted on another, is a crim[illegible] humanity."

* * * * *

"SHOULD India take to the sword, she would cease to be the India of my d[illegible] and I should [illegible] betake myself to the Himalayas to seek rest for my anguished soul."

—MAHATMA GA[illegible]

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's a[illegible] to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessa[illegible] official opinion.

— Anything except pictures appearing in this journal may be freely reprodu[illegible]

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Books and Publications

"MY EXPERIENCE IN SOVIET RUSSIA." *By* DR. MEGHNAD SAHA. *Published by the Bookman, Calcutta—Priced Rs.* 5.

The book is a reprint of some articles contributed by the author to newspapers on his return from a trip to Soviet Russia, as an Indian delegate to the 20th Anniversary of the Russian Academy of Sciences. A distinguished scientist, Dr. Meghnad Saha deals with the work of the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the scientific progress made in the Soviet Union under the direct impulse of State encouragement and patronage. He emphasizes more than once the point that it was the freedom permitted to the scientists in Soviet Union to carry on their work in an atmosphere free from interference that has resulted in the great work turned out by the scientists and that enabled the Soviet Union to meet and successfully overcome the Nazi Blitz. He also points out that the scientists occupy a position of honour and responsibility in the State, because their contribution to the country's progress in several spheres is fully recognized.

In the chapter on "Transformation of the Country" Dr. Saha reports a conversation he had with Professor Krzizhenovsky, President of the Committee of Energetics, in which he explained how the Bolsheviks planned their programme of development of the country's natural resources like giants and finished like titans. The important and vital place that electrical power can play in the promotion of a nation's prosperity is clearly demonstrated by the conversation [illegible]d it is a pointer to us in Indi[illegible] [illegible]r vast undeveloped and unta[illegible] [illegible]er resources. With free[illegible] [illegible], we should get over as qu[illegible] [illegible]e th[illegible] d[illegible]ks and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]it [illegible] [illegible]d [illegible] matic [illegible]ast [illegible] re- [illegible]uld be utilized [illegible]e extent.

[illegible] that Professor [illegible] sympathy for [illegible] He says in [illegible] made by Prof. [illegible] "the spinning [illegible]t economics of [illegible] and many of regard for Gandhi's economic and social theories as you have for Tolstoy's." It is not always remembered by our scientists and administrators that India is essentially a land of villages and will remain so for years to come, perhaps always, and that for bettering the conditions of the villagers and utilizing their traditional skill in the crafts, there can be no better method than the encouragement and promotion of village or cottage industries. Of course, with the availability of cheap electrical energy, these industries can be better organized or worked.

In a big country like India, there is a place for big industries and big power and other schemes as well as for small industries and village economy."

—C.V.H.

WITTY TALES OF BADSHA AND BIRBAL

By M. S. PATEL.

Published by Messrs. N. M. Thakkar & Co., 140, *Princess Street, Bombay* 2.

Price—Rs. 6–12–0 (Postage Extra).

Among those luminous personages who adorned the Court of Emperor Akbar, Raja Birbal was an outstanding figure. Apart from being divinely gifted with ready wit, Raja Birbal was a brave warrior and a statesman. His rare and versatile talents have won for him an esteemed and elevated position in the Court of Akbar. The author of this book has to be congratulated for his efforts to compile so many witty tales, in which Birbal figures prominently. No doubt the authenticity of most of them cannot be verified. Yet it is the record of the unique tales, proving Birbal's superb intelligence and presence of mind. The book is written in a lucid style and easy language, with the humour in each tale clearly grasped and cleverly presented. The colour plates of Iqbal, artist have added charm to the edition. The book is chiefly meant for the English readers as the author himself has said in his preface. A Passage appears in Tale XVII, page 99, as spoken by Birbal: "Though possessed of great personal charm, is she not a witch fit to be burnt alive in the heart of the town?" Burning of witches alive in the heart of a town was a custom [illegible] [illegible]edieval Europe and not in India. The get-up of the book is excellent. The book, on the whole, deserves a place in the shelves of all libraries worth the name.

—S.A.H.

'FOOD AND NUTRITION IN INDIA"

By DR. D. N. CHATTERJEE.

Published by—The author, 3/2, *College Street, Calcutta—Price Rs.* 6.

The book deals with important aspects of food and nutrition in a practical manner and is written in a clear and simple language. It deserves a place as a text-book on the subject.

—B.G.K.

THE VISVA-BHARATI QUARTERLY EDUCATION NUMBER

[*Edited by Kshitis Roy—Pages* 215—*Price Rs.* 8].

It was Mahatma Gandhi who said that if India was to attain salvation, we have to unlearn, much of what we have learnt during the past fifty years. The problem of re-orientation of the educational system, with a view to evolve one suited to our cultural heritage and national genius, is to-day exercising the minds of all. The alien influences that have paralysed our faculties and stunted our growth have to be discarded and a true education that will help to draw out the lurking potentiality and latent talents, and lead to full and fruitful growth, is the need of the hour.

The Visva-Barathi, the eternal flame that was kindled by the immortal Gurudev, has done a distinct service to the nation by bringing out this number which is a symposium on the various aspects and theories of education. Each aspect has been dealt with in its proper place and in the proper perspective. An idealist interpretation of the Wardha scheme is given by Sri G. Ramachandran, while Sri P. S. Naidu subjects it to a psychological analysis. The Montessori system, the problems of teacher-training, education for rural India, etc., are some of the topics which have been dealt with in a scholarly way. There are three articles expressing, in his own words, the views of Gurudev Tagore on education.

This volume, which is packed with 28 learned articles, is at once, of topical and abiding value.

Asso-
Road,

neatly got up volume
536 pages and giving a
ts regarding Indian engi-
-ies. It is published by
Engineering Association,
e object of this Associa-
i a brief indication of its activities are given in the introductory portion of the book. This is followed by a chapter in which matters connected with Indian engineering are explained. Part A of the book deals with (1) names and addresses of the engineering factories in the membership of the association, (2) their trade-marks and patents and (3) a buyer's guide from which the public could know from where to obtain their requirements of engineering products. Part B gives a survey of various engineering industries of the country. Part C concerns itself with the progress and development of individual member companies in the field of mechanical engineering, manufacture of machine tools, structural engineering, electrical engineering, ship-building and marine engineering, welding and press work. There are interesting photos also of personalities connected with the Engineering Association.

This is a useful reference book for businessmen and others interested in Indian engineering industries. It seems however quite possible to condense the information contained in the book and a more handy volume produced.

—T.K.G.

"MADRAS INDUSTRIES LECTURE SERIES"

No. 1: "Irrigation Projects" by Dewan Bahadur N. Govindaraja Iyengar.
No. 2 "Paint Industry" by P. Gopala Rao, M.A., M.Sc.
No. 3: "Coir Industry" by Syed Mohamed, B.A.

These booklets are published by the Madras Industries Association and contain within a brief compass interesting information on current subjects. The booklets are quite interesting and deal exhaustively within certain limits with the subjects treated in each of them. To lay readers especially these handy booklets are sure to prove a mine of general information. The Madras Industries Association ...rves to be congratulated for this commendable literary venture of theirs. Days, there were, when "ignorance was bliss and it was folly to be wise" but in this age of democracy the value and usefulness of that form of Government is in proportion to the intelligent interest which a citizen takes in the activities of the Government and to stimulate this intelligent interest, publications such as these are an important accessory.

—T.K.G.

"HEALTH NUTRITION AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION PROBLEMS OF INDIA"

By K.C. K. E. RAJA, V. N. PATWARDHAN AND JOSEPH.

Published by Messrs. Padma Publications, Ltd., Publishers, Bombay—for Indian Council of World Affairs.

The pamphlet describes the relation between food, physical fitness and public health. The report of the Health Survey and Development Committee, commonly known as the Bhore Committee, has been referred to in some detail. The pamphlet deserves perusal by all those interested in knowing modern views on some vital problems requiring solution.

—B.G.K.

KHADI WORK IN TAMIL NAD

Annual Report, 1946-47—Published by the All-India Spinners' Association, Tamil Nad, Tiruppur.

This is a well documented report containing a wealth of statistical information about the progress of Khadi in Tamil Nad. The report runs to 30 pages and this is the second annual report under the programme of re-orientation.

According to the report, Khadi industry has made big strides during the period. There was an appreciable increase in production and sale as compared with that in the previous year. Spinning has become more popular in urban areas and the Khadi customers have found it easier to contribute the required yarn for Khadi on account of the rational change introduced in the yarn quota. Spinning for self-sufficiency gained a great fillip during the period and arrangements were made for weaving yarn by about 400 self-spinners.

That the development of Khadi industry is necessary to promote rural rehabilitation needs no argument now. Mahatma Gandhi has repeatedly emphasised this fact. There can be much improvement in ... rural standard of living if attention is concentrated on the promotion of Khadi industry in the village. In this as in many other things the enthusiasm of the rural folk counts for much and without it no headway can be made. The All-India Spinners' Association has by their commendable activities done much to stimulate the interest of the villager in this matter. In a Free India the usefulness of such organizations can never be over-estimated. In fact, to inculcate new habits and encourage new methods voluntary organizations are more effective.

—T.K.G.

Veterinary Department

The Seventh All-India Cattle Show was held at Delhi during February 1948.

The object of the show was to help cattle industry in India and to serve as a clearing house of ideas for cattle breeders all over the country. It also afforded a practical demonstration of India's wealth in good breeds of cattle and enabled breeders of Provinces and States to select the best suited breed for their purpose.

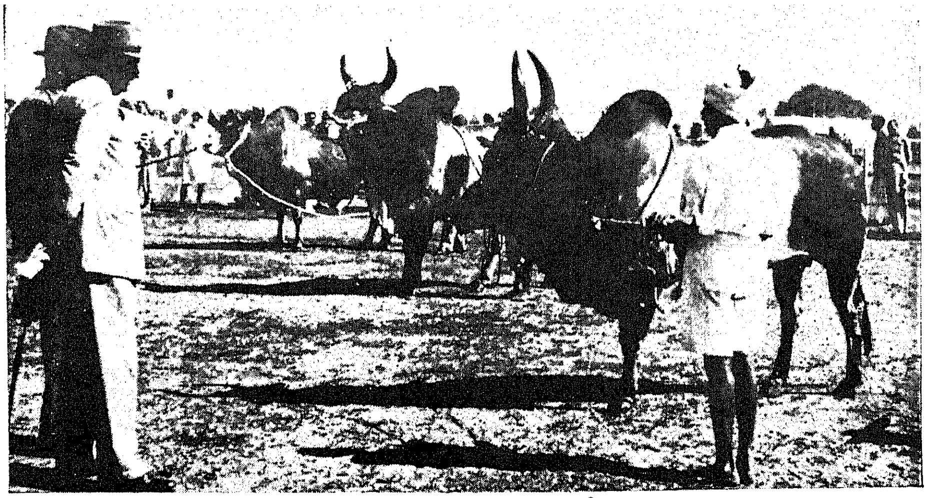
The following classes of animals were exhibited :—

(1) Cattle and buffaloes.
(2) Sheep and goats.
(3) Poultry.

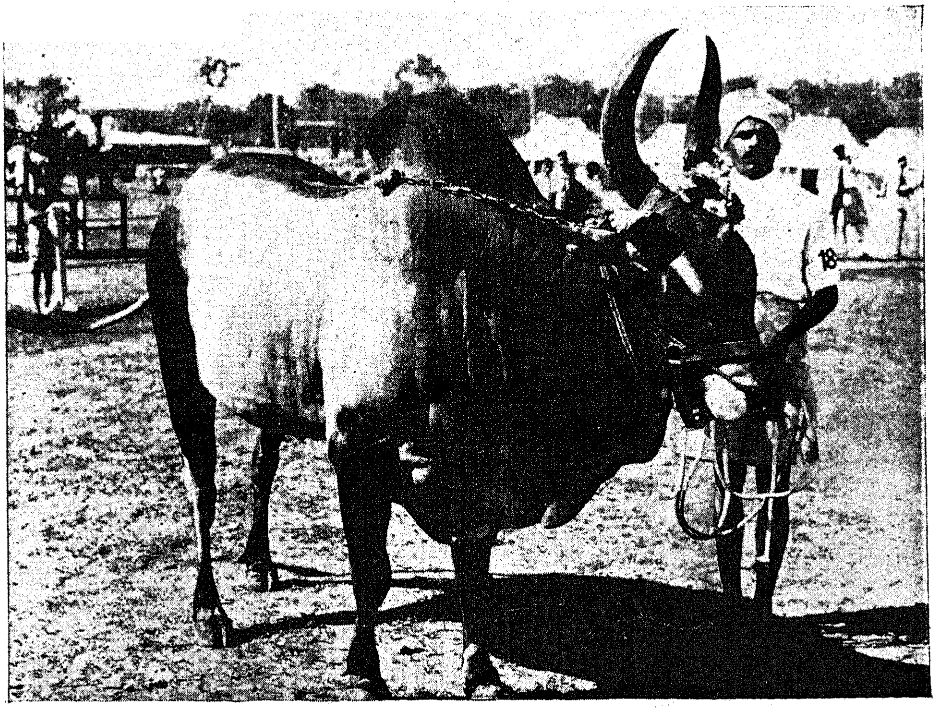
The South Indian breeds were represented by Amrit Mahals, Hallikars, Kangayam and Ongoles. Red Sindhis were also at the show.

It is noteworthy that the animals from the South belonging to the Madras Government Cattle Farms knocked off many prizes and Challenge cups in the show. The Kangayam bull No. 555 of Government Cattle Farm at Hosur was awarded the Supreme Championship for the ... in the whole show this year a... away the coveted Hyder... ...nge cup. In the C... ...s a Hallikar cow of ... ...t Cattle Farm at H... ...e Gh... the be... Sindhi ... farm, w... ...eclare... cow exhibited. Government Cat... was the winner of cow of the breed except heifer from the winner of the ...kottai Challeng... Championship ...

Scenes from the All-India Cattle and Poultry Show at Delhi



Bulls assembled at the judging ring



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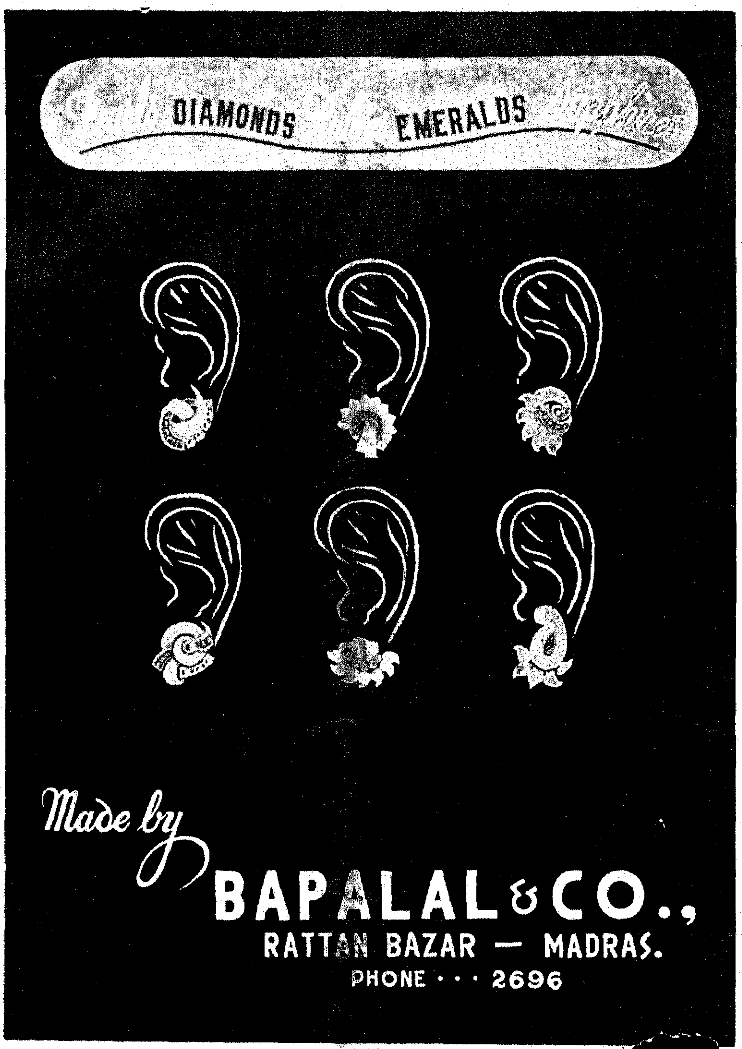
Kangayam Bull of Hosur Cattle Farm which won the supreme championship in the Show

Registered No. M-4767.



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